

THE 183 BEST SONGS TO DOWNLOAD >>>> THIS MONTH



BLENDER

# BLENDER

★ THE ULTIMATE MUSIC MAGAZINE

BLENDER AND VH1

PRESENT THE

## 50 WORST SONGS OF ALL TIME!

PILLS! MADNESS!

FRANCES BEAN!

# COURTNEY LOVE

### "I WILL ROCK MY WAY OUT OF THIS!"

STABBED!  
DIZEE  
RASCAL'S  
GANGSTA  
NIGHTMARE

THEY DO!  
IN BED  
WITH  
DAVE AND  
CARMEN

JANET  
JACKSON  
THE  
VINES

MAY 2004  
BLENDER.COM



# AN AMERICAN

MEET THE SURPRISINGLY BIG CHEVY AVEO  
WITH THE SURPRISINGLY BIG WARRANTY.



**aveo** MOST PASSENGER ROOM\* | 5-YEAR/60,000-MILE POWERTRAIN PROMISE† | POWER DOOR LOCKS AND REMOTE KEY

# REVOLUTION™



\*Based on 2004 GM Economy 5-Door segment. †Whichever comes first. Limited warranty. See dealer for details. ©2004 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

LESS ENTRY | HEATED OUTSIDE REARVIEW MIRRORS | CD/MP3 PLAYER | THE ALL-NEW CHEVY™ AVEO™ LS



# AN AMERICAN



**equinox** GO AHEAD, TRY NOT TO STARE | STANDARD V6 | AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND AWD | MULTI-FLEX™ SLIDING

# REVOLUTION™

INTRODUCING EQUINOX.  
SUDDENLY EVERY OTHER SUV  
HAS A GREAT PERSONALITY.



\*Based on GM segmentation. †MSRP. Tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment extra. Equinox is a trademark of the GM Corp. ©2004 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

REAR SEAT | MOST REAR LEGROOM OF ANY SUV\* | STARTING AT \$21,560† | AS SHOWN \$25,195†



AN AMERICAN



**colorado** SLAMMED AND TUNED SUSPENSION | AVAILABLE 220-HP VORTEC™ I-5 WITH MORE HORSEPOWER THAN ANY V6\*

# REVOLUTION™

YOU WANT CUTE? BUY A PUPPY.



\*Based on 2004 GM Medium Pickup segment. Excludes other GM vehicles. ©2004 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

| LOW-PROFILE TIRES | 17" WHEELS | EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN THE ALL-NEW CHEVY™ COLORADO™ SPORT



 unionbay.com © UNIONBAY SPORTSWEAR 2004

# HOLLYWOOD: ON LOCATION

Photographed at Echo Park, Everett & Sunset  
Los Angeles, California



UNIONBAY



This is an issue we feel strongly about –  
You gotta treat your favorite bands  
with respect. If you know music, you  
know this is the only way to get  
real quality. Legal downloads rock.

GOOD CHARLOTTE



**WE DOWNLOAD**

(Legally.)

# BED HEAD



Manipulate  
**Daily!**

Daily Shampoo and Conditioner



**TONI & GUY**

the creator of

**BED HEAD**

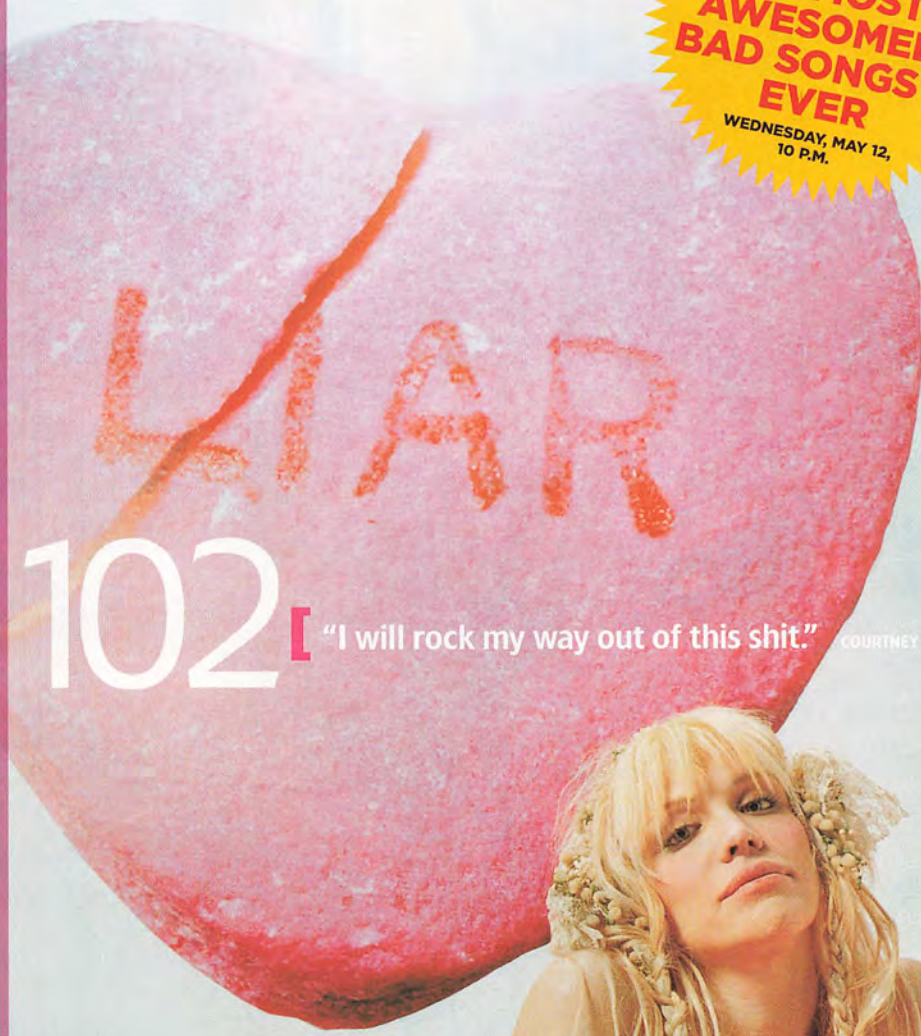
www.toniguy.com 800.256.9391

www.tigihaircare.com 800.259.8596 Available only in Professional Salons

**TV ALERT!**  
**WATCH BLENDER AND VHI'S 50 MOST AWESOMELY BAD SONGS... EVER**  
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 10 P.M.

## FEATURES >>

- 70 ROCK'S GREATEST ARGUMENTS**  
Beatles or Stones? Who killed Tupac? Did Janet *intentionally* flash a billion people? Ryan Adams, Fountains of Wayne and that reality-TV dwarf settle rock's burning barroom battles.
- 76 \$848: THE VINES**  
Will *Blender* allow Australia's finest ill-behaved garage-rockers to more than *double* their set spending limit on DVDs, beer and 10-pin bowling? Yes!
- 78 DIZZEE RASCAL**  
England's greatest hip-hop export overcomes a horrific stabbing to post big sales at home. Now the man they call the British 50 Cent surveys the U.S. scene and admiringly calls it "nang." Uh, thanks. . . .
- 82 HOW TO BE DAVE NAVARRO AND CARMEN ELECTRA**  
Watch depressing drug movies, and pack handcuffs and a whip when going on vacation: Rock's hottest couple spill their secrets.
- 84 THE 50 WORST SONGS EVER!**  
Here are the most wretched compositions ever belched up onto unsuspecting music fans. "I'm Too Sexy." "Ice Ice Baby." "Achy Breaky Heart." Aggggggh — *make them stop!*
- 102 COURTNEY LOVE**  
Drugs, break-ins, deranged courtroom outbursts: Climb into Courtney Love's limo as she tries to resurrect her career, regain custody of her daughter and emerge from a period she calls "worse than Kurt's death."



102 [ "I will rock my way out of this shit." COURTNEY LOVE ]

### ON THE COVER >>>>



PHOTOGRAPHY  
**JUDSON BAKER**

SET DESIGN RICK ELDEN  
 STYLING LIGIA MORRIS FOR  
 MARGARET MALDONADO  
 MAKEUP KATHY JEUNG FOR  
 MARGARET MALDONADO  
 HAIR DUKE SNYDER FOR  
 MARGARET MALDONADO  
 MANICURE TONY BACHOK  
 FOR CLOUTIER

BUSTLE CORSET AND BIKINI TOP  
 BY LIGIA MORRIS FOR EAT MY  
 LEATHER, HOLLYWOOD

# NEW Curve Crush

SEE WHERE IT  
TAKES YOU... NOW.



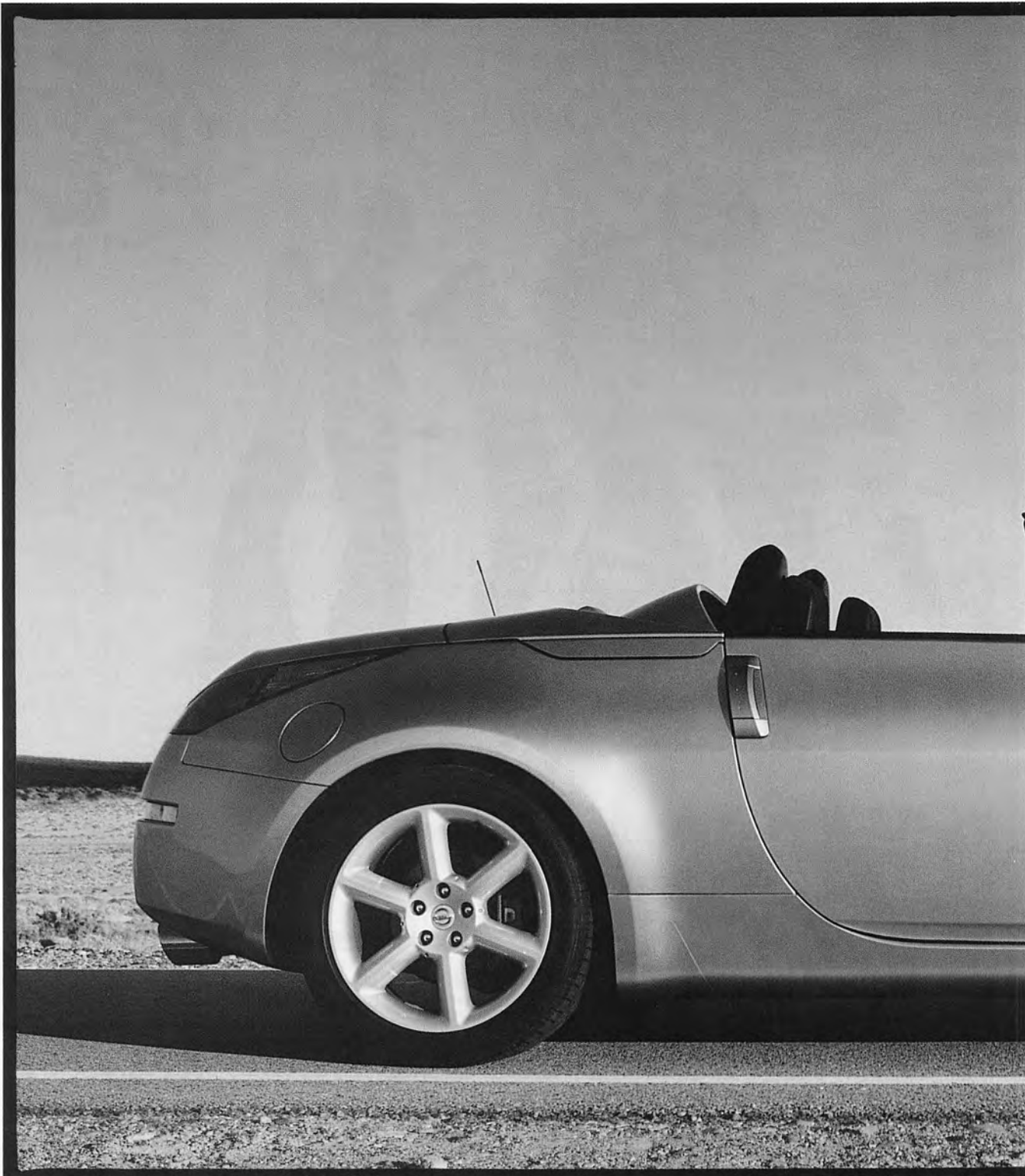
FROM CURVE... NEW FRAGRANCES  
FOR HIM. FOR HER. FOR NOW.



for HIM | for HER

Macy's   Robinsns-May   Filene's   Kaufmann's   Rich's-Macy's  
Lazarus-Macy's   Goldsmith's-Macy's

[www.curvefragnances.com](http://www.curvefragnances.com)



*Now, about that firstborn child. The Z<sup>®</sup> Roadster.*

Call 800-NISSAN3 or visit NissanUSA.com. LIMITED AVAILABILITY on Z<sup>®</sup> Roadster. Nissan, the Nissan Brand Symbol, "SHIFT\_" tagline and Z<sup>®</sup> are Nissan trademarks. Always wear your seat belt.



SHIFT\_passion

and please don't drink and drive. © 2003 Nissan North America, Inc.

## REGULARS &gt;&gt;

- 22** EDITOR'S LETTER  
**26** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
**36** BURNER

Elton John's fancy new stage set; Dave Grohl rocks; meet Finland's Ozzy; Johnny Cash's kin say no to a hemorrhoid ad; and more. Do you hear? More! More! More!

- 40** THE NEXT BIG THING!  
 Snow Patrol; Christina Milian

- 58** DEAR SUPERSTAR  
 Hey, Steven Tyler: What's Aerosmith's preferred dangerous firearm? How about some savvy investment tips? And, er, what's the deal with that roast beef down the front of your pants?

- 64** THE GREATEST SONGS EVER!  
 When the Notorious B.I.G. laid down the lyrics to "Hypnotize," he rightly figured it would be a hit. He had no idea it would also serve as his epitaph.

- 66** ASK BLENDER  
 Reginald Dwight's guardian angel; a lost duet from Tori Amos and Michael Stipe; the DeBarge family's airborne terrorism; Van Morrison's crappy throwaways

- 164** WHO DOES MELISSA AUF DER MAUR THINK SHE IS?  
 The former Smashing Pumpkins bassist has a new CD, a fixation with horses and tons of drunk-in-Canada stories. "I like all alcohol!" she says. Hey, us too!

84

**[ P. Diddy's "I'll Be Missing You" is gloopy sentimentality. ]**



# SKYY SPORT™ LOW CARB



www.SKYYSPORT.com Ultra premium malt beverage with citrus and a splash of cranberry. Half the carbs of other top-selling flavored malt beverages with only 15g carbs per 12 oz. serving. SKYY Beverage Co. Milwaukee, WI © 2004. PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.



---

NAME: **KELLAN LUTZ**  
PROFESSION: **POOL PLAYER**  
JEANS: **LEVI'S® LOW RISE STRAIGHT 529™ JEANS**  
IMPRESSION: **CHALK**

---

A STYLE FOR EVERY STORY™

RELAXED FIT

REGULAR FIT

501® ORIGINAL

LOOSE STRAIGHT

LOOSE BOOT CUT

LOW RISE STRAIGHT

LOW RISE BOOT CUT

**Levi's**  
®

THE GUIDE >>

- 116 NEW RELEASES**  
Janet Jackson, Aerosmith, N'E'R'D', the Streets and more
- 134 CHART**
- 136 MY MUSIC**  
*Scary Movie 3* star Eddie Griffin used to breakdance to Run-DMC, and he learned about Ireland from listening to U2. If only the salsa music hadn't given him a heart attack. . . .
- 138 REISSUES**  
A four-CD hip-hop box, Guns N' Roses, Weezer and more
- 148 BACK CATALOG**  
Lynyrd Skynyrd
- 150 LIVE!**  
Britney Spears; Josh Groban
- 154 MOVIES**
- 156 DVDS**
- 158 BOOKS**
- 160 GAMES**
- 161 CROSSWORD/CARTOON**

82

["Not everybody is as adventurous as we are." —CARMEN ELECTRA AND DAVE NAVARRO]

So identical

it's kinda freaky.



## Introducing Mobile IM from Verizon Wireless

With Verizon Wireless Mobile IM, just about everything that your IM does on your desktop computer, you can do on your wireless phone. And Mobile IM works with both AOL® Instant Messenger™ service or MSN Messenger. So you can access your same Buddy List® group or contact list, and your same conversations. You can even see when your friends are online, whether they log on from home or their cell phone. Mobile IM, just one more way to stay connected by the provider of the nation's largest wireless network.

1 800 2 Join In  
[verizonwireless.com/getitnow](http://verizonwireless.com/getitnow)

**verizon**wireless  
We never stop working for you.

Subject to customer agreement, calling plan & Get It Now agreements. CDMA phone with specific software required. Customers charged to send & receive messages. Charges vary depending on calling plan. Verizon Wireless network & digital service required. Must have an account with MSN or AOL. Coverage & service not available in all areas. AOL, Instant Messenger, the triangle icon & the Running Man icon are registered trademarks or trademarks of America Online Inc. All rights reserved. Microsoft, MSN & the MSN logos are registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corp. in the U.S. and/or other countries.

# Norah Jones

The new album *feels like home*

"Jones' vocals are indelible. She never fails to choose simple over flamboyant, never holds a note too long. She may prove to be the most natural singer of her generation." —*Time Magazine*

ALSO AVAILABLE:



Come Away With Me 32088



Live in New Orleans DVD 90427



www.norahjones.com  
www.bluenote.com  
©2004 Blue Note Records

AVAILABLE AT:

# TOWER RECORDS.

Tower.com



# BLENDER

THE ULTIMATE MUSIC MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief **Andy Pemberton**  
Group Creative Director **Andy Turnbull**  
Editor **Craig Marks**

<b>EDITORIAL</b>	<b>ART</b>
Senior Editors <b>Rob Tannenbaum,</b> <b>Clark Collis,</b> <b>Pauline O'Connor</b>	Deputy Art Director <b>Andrew Ryan</b> Senior Designer <b>Martin Hoops</b>
Senior Associate Editor <b>Victoria DeSilverio</b>	<b>PHOTO</b>
Associate Editor <b>Jonah Weiner</b>	Photo Editor <b>Tonya Martin</b>
Editorial Assistant <b>Lauren Harris</b>	Deputy Photo Editor <b>Kathleen Kemp</b> Associate Photo Editor <b>Thomas Payne</b> Photo Assistant <b>Sarah A. Cullen</b>

**PRODUCTION**  
Managing Editor **Adam Bell**  
Copy Chief **Brian Dawson**  
Production Manager **Courtney Guggenheim**  
Research Editor **Gabe Soria**

★  
**CONTRIBUTORS**

John Aizlewood, Chapman Baehler, Judson Baker, Johnny Black, Noel Boddie, Jane Bussman, Kenneth Cappello, Jon Caramanica, Nick Catucci, Danny Clinch, Adrian Desevoy, Matt Diehl, Paul Du Noyer, Nick Duenden, Tony Duran, Kris ex, Andy Greenwald, Daniel Hansen, John Harris, Andrew Harrison, James Hannaham, Dale Hrab, James Hunter, Maura Johnston, Steve Kandel, David Keeps, Michael Lavine, Lega, Steve Lowe, James Luscombe, Dorian Lynskey, Chairman Mao, Robert Maxwell, Ben Mitchell, John Mullen, Simon Munk, Sean Murphy, Sheryl Nields, Frank Ockenfels 3, Michael Odell, Dave Peisner, Neal Pollack, Tony Power, Ann Powers, David Quantick, Brendan Ugly, Rankin, Ben Ratliff, Jon Regardie, Jordan Reife, Chris Ryan, Miranda Sawyer, F. Scott Schafer, William Shaw, James Slaughter, RJ Smith, Justin Stephens, Scott Steinberg, Neil Strauss, Phil Sutcliffe, Kylee Swenson, Alphonse Telymonde, Mm Udovitch, Chris Varas, Sarah Wilson, Douglas Wolik, Jon Young

★  
General Manager **Lance J.O. Ford**

**ADVERTISING**  
Publisher **Malcolm Campbell (212) 372-3886**  
Associate Publisher **Jason Wagenheim (212) 372-3850**  
Senior Account Manager **Christina Helms (212) 372-8673**  
Account Manager **Loren Pransky (646) 827-7250**  
Account Manager **Allyson Reid (212) 372-3861**  
Midwest Director **Kate Dixon (312) 440-6901**  
Midwest Manager **Graham Hickey (312) 440-6906**  
Detroit Director **Nan Gerard (248) 723-1302**  
Southern California Director **Kelly Watson (310) 664-0368**  
Northwest Account Manager **Bill Hilton (415) 749-2775**  
Southeast Manager **Jason Albaun (404) 892-0760**  
Corporate Inside Sales Manager **Jessica Bunucci (212) 372-3878**  
Marketing Director **Andrea Parr**  
Promotions Associate **Brett Kassan**  
Advertising Assistant **Anya Estrov**  
Executive Assistant **Kimberly Esposito**  
Advertising Intern **Ashley McEwan**  
Public Relations **Four Corners Communications (212) 849-8250**  
Newsstand Distributors **The Curtis Circulation Company**



**A DENNIS PUBLICATION**

Chairman **Felix Dennis**  
President and CEO **Stephen Colvin**  
Executive Vice President, Publishing **Lance J.O. Ford**  
Chief Operating & Financial Officer **John M. Lagana**  
Group Creative Director **Andy Turnbull**  
Director **Robert G. Bartner**  
International Licensing Director **Kerin O'Connor 011-44 (0) 20-7907-6136**  
Executive Assistant to the President **Jane Buchanan**  
Group Financial Controller **Kevin E. Morgan**  
Accounting Manager **Brian Thomas**  
Director of Financial Reporting **Karen Reed**  
Senior Financial Analyst **Brian Kelley**  
Production Director **Lou Terracciano**  
Associate Production Manager **Aimee Leinhardt**  
Subscription Marketing Director **Susan Tynan**  
Newsstand Manager **T.J. Montilli**  
Operations Manager **Randy Siegel**  
Director of Legal Affairs **Harry Kanner**  
Director of Brand Development **Barry Pincus**  
Director of Business Development **Eric Simon**

Copyright © 2004 Dennis Publishing, Inc. Blender™ is a registered trademark owned by Felix Dennis. All rights reserved. May 2004 issue, Volume 3, Number 4. Blender is published 10 times per year by Dennis Publishing, Inc., 1040 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10018; Tel (212) 302-2626; Fax (212) 302-2635; Internet www.blender.com For subscription problems and changes call 877-382-0783

Featuring: DEAD PREZ



Shop eckounltd.at  
ecko.com

Published by Marc Ecko  
complex magazine  
complexmagazine.com



 WE THE PEOPLE



[ Nothing could prepare us for Courtney Love. ]

## The Last of The Rock & Roll Stars

▶▶ HERE AT BLENDER, we pride ourselves on being able to face any pop icon-related situation — no matter how grisly — and keep our composure. When pop stars are grumpy, we soothe their fevered brows. When they're late, we wait patiently. When they turn up to a photo shoot with 20 of their best pals, a case of semiautomatic weapons and a freakin' lion, we don't pee our pants. (Hey, we spilled some water down there, OK, DMX?)

Nothing, however, could prepare us for the tornado that swept into our lives when we photographed Courtney Love for the cover of this very issue. Naturally, Love showed up four hours late, but these days, what self-neglecting pop star doesn't? Far fewer then decide to throw a flower arrangement around the studio — or go topless, play the White Stripes over and over again and then start screaming. By 3 in the morning, the whole place was covered in cigarettes, books, clothes, feathers and makeup. And that's just the stuff I left behind. Now *that's* rock & roll!

Enjoy the issue!

ANDY PEMBERTON  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

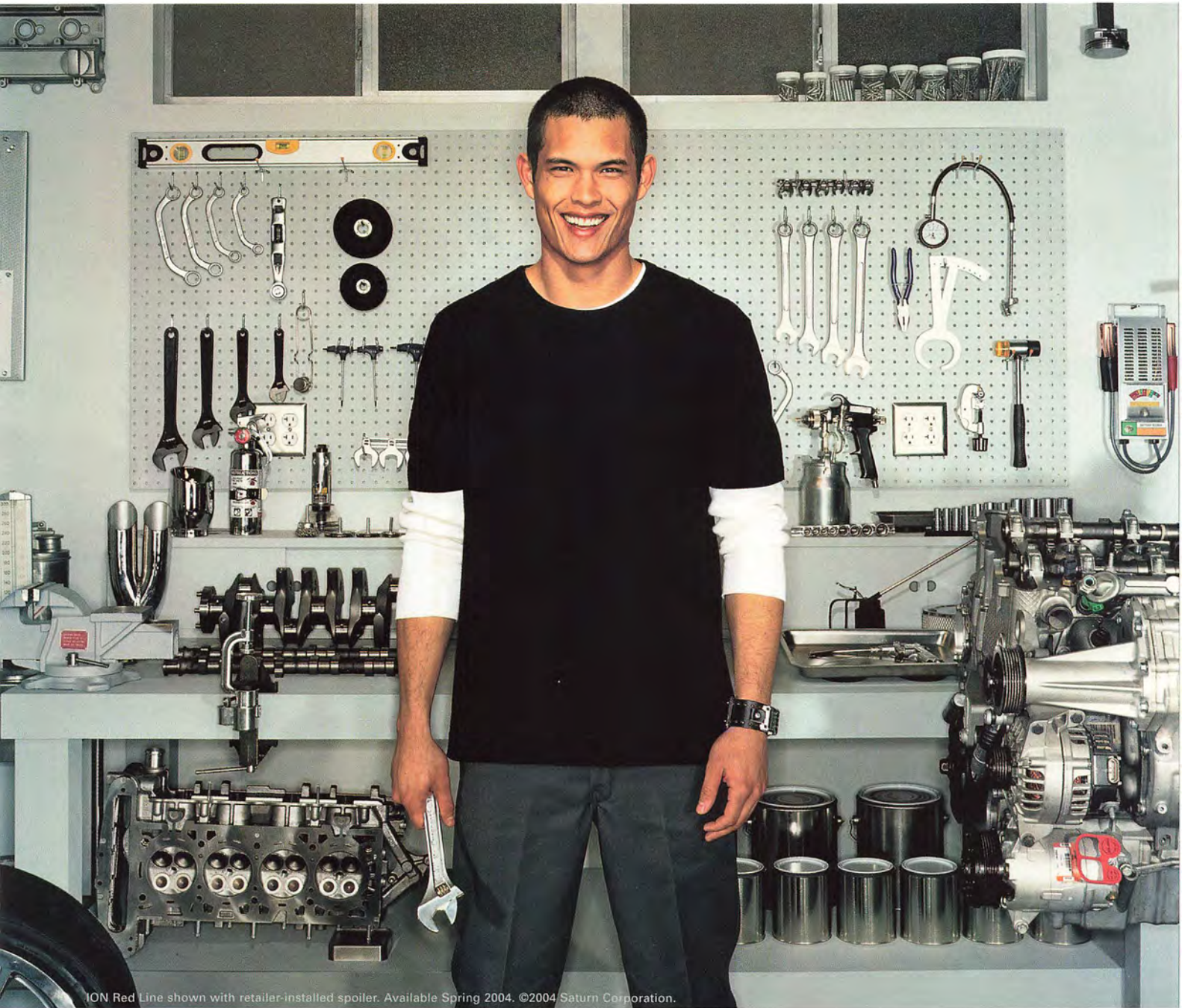


Judson Baker (Love); TNT Productions (Pemberton)



**Dear Ketel One Drinker**  
**If you meet our new drinker, Mike,**  
**at the bar, please say hello.**

# The Chose His Car Over His Girlfriend Guy



ION Red Line shown with retailer-installed spoiler. Available Spring 2004. ©2004 Saturn Corporation.

The 205-horsepower Saturn ION Red Line



Supercharged 205-hp engine. RECARO Sport Seats. 17" forged alloy wheels.  
Optional on a girlfriend, standard on the ION™ Red Line quad coupe.  
Putting people first doesn't mean putting cars second.  
*See more at [Saturn.com](http://Saturn.com)*

People first.



# You've Got Mail!

WE WANT YOU TO SHARE . . .



## I WAS TOUCHED!

I was touched that you honored Captain Kangaroo as a musician with the "Picture Pages" spine lyric on your April issue. Though not in a conventional way, he introduced many of us to music.

GENEVIEVE TULLY, WICHITA, KANSAS

## FLOYD-MUNGUS!

I instantly knew the lyric on the back page of your April issue: "For long you live and high you fly/But only if you ride the tide" is from Pink Floyd's "Breathe," which is on their classic album *Dark Side of the Moon*. Thanks for the great mix of the old and the new!

JOCELYN EDELSEN, BOULDER, COLORADO

## OUTKAST: SPLIT UP!

Your recent cover feature on Outkast ["The Last Supper?", April] made it seem like a bad thing that André 3000 is thinking about breaking up the band. But isn't it better for a group to leave at the top of its game rather than taking the more usual route of becoming a parody of itself?

SHERYL LARSEN, NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

Is it? Over to you, Tony Saterfield of New York, New York. . . .

## OUTKAST: DON'T SPLIT UP!

As much as I love Outkast, after reading your feature, it seems that André really needs a) a reality check and b) some sort of slap in the face for threatening to break up one of the greatest bands in the world. And I think his bandmate, Big Boi, who clearly has the patience of a saint, should be allowed to deliver both. Other than that, I think they're the most wonderful band in the world!

TONY SATERFIELD, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

★ Congratulations to the winner of *Blender's* March Crossword contest, who walks away with a boomin' Rotel stereo system: Diana Fernandez of Richmond, Virginia.

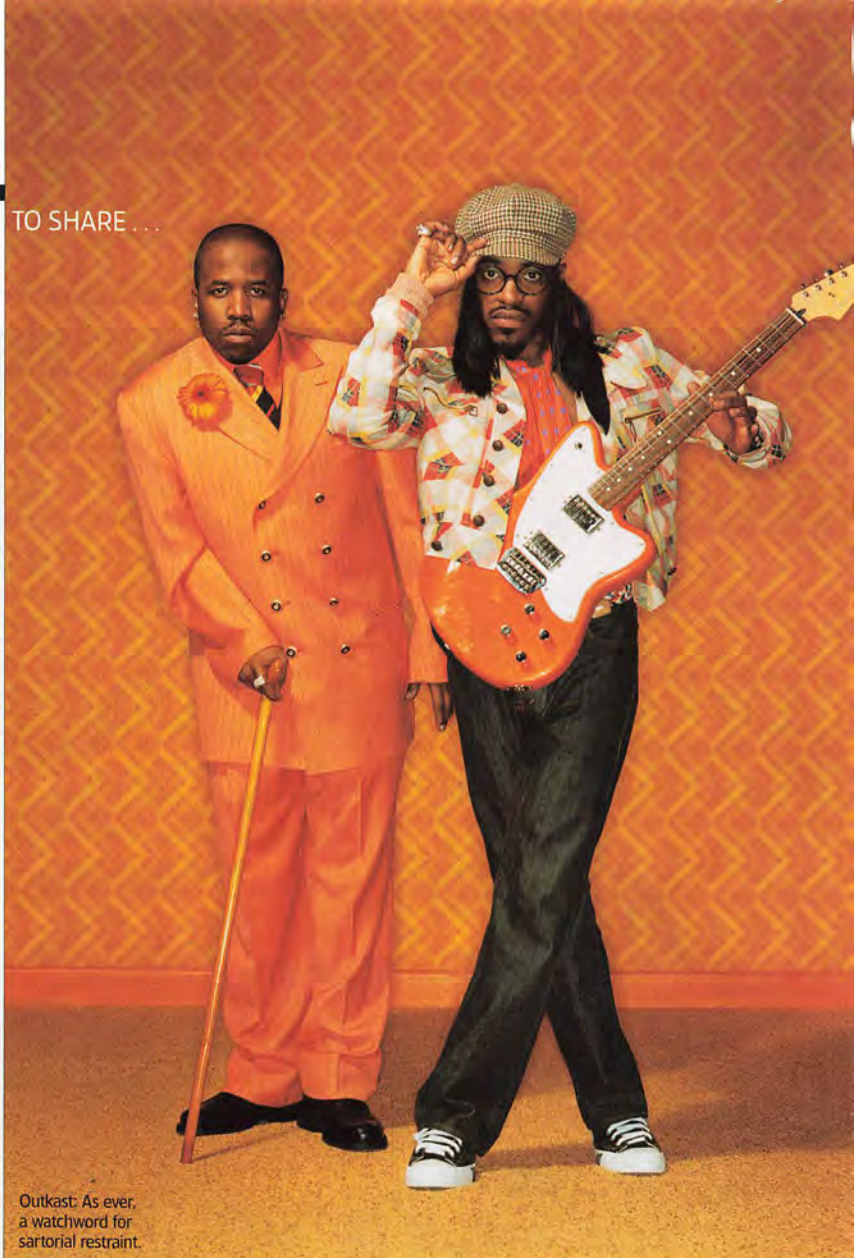
## LISTEN UP!

CALLING ALL *BLENDER* readers: We want to hear from you! Write us a letter. Tell us your deepest thoughts and secret desires. . . . Er, well, maybe just your thoughts, then. If we print your letter in our next issue, we'll send you the amazing SlimX 400, iRiver's premier MP3-CD player. It features playlist management, built-in FM tuner, skip-free music playback, up to 23 hours of play time and MP3, WMA and ASF format support. *Wow!*

Send your letters to *Letters to the Editor*, *Blender*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York, New York 10018. Or: [your2cents@blender.com](mailto:your2cents@blender.com). Hell, yes!



WIN ME!



Outkast: As ever, a watchword for sartorial restraint.

## HERE'S A CONUNDRUM!

Just wanted to commend you on a great interview with Kylie Minogue ["The Tao of Kylie," April]. But there was one philosophical conundrum you forgot to ask her: If Pluto is a dog, what kind of animal is Goofy?

NOEL RADZAN, SCHNECKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Congratulations, Noel. Your letter stopped all work in the *Blender* offices for a full hour.

## DEAR LOVELIEST BLENDER

I've got it, you bastards! The lyric "You talk about just every band/But the names you drop are secondhand," found on the last page of your March issue and paired with the Tori Amos Q&A, is from "Fox on the Run," by Sweet. A very

appropriate selection — Tori is certainly sweet, and so are your candy-asses at *Blender!* *Blender*, I love you — will you marry me?

REBECCA FUENTES, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
Yes, of course we will, you silly!

## WAS KURT COBAIN CRAZY?

Is there some reason why Nirvana's Kurt Cobain wasn't included in your feature highlighting the 50 Craziest Pop Stars of All Time [April]? How much crazier can you get than becoming a heroin addict and blowing your brains out?

JON REID-TESSLER, SHELTON, CONNECTICUT

We determined, not unreasonably, that Cobain's life was less crazy than simply downright tragic. →



Kurt Cobain, before the bad business



Ben Sherman®

NORDSTROM MICHAEL K VIRGIN MEGASTORES

[www.benshermanusa.com](http://www.benshermanusa.com)



Evanescence's Amy Lee, pictured seconds before getting very wet

★ LETTERS

# SUPERFAN!

Bringing out the stalker in you since 2001



Michael Ton and Pharrell Williams



Reuben Cervera with Iggy Pop and Ice-T



April Mandap and Dr. Dre



Amie Kurzyniec and Kid Rock



Joni Joyner and Nick Lachey



Louie LeBron and P. Diddy

### TOTALLY CRAZY!

Loved your April feature about the 50 Craziest Pop Stars. But I couldn't help but wonder if the golden age of the pop-star nut is gone. The only one under 30 years old on your list was Britney Spears, and all she did was get drunk and married in Las Vegas, which for the Who's Keith Moon probably counted as a quiet night in.

STACEY DITZIAN, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

### DISAPPEARING GRADUALLY!

I thought your piece on Amy Lee and Evanescence ("Survivor!", April) was superb. You told the band's story in a sensitive and tactful way. One question you didn't answer: What the hell does the word *evanescence* actually mean?

HILLARY BAUER, ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

It's the female equivalent of the name Evan. For example, if a certain grunge-era singer-songwriter had been born a little baby girlie, his parents could have named him Evanescence Dando. (OK, it actually means "having the quality of disappearing gradually.")

### EXERCISE IS BAD!

Reading Dear Superstar in your April issue, I had to disagree with Pharrell Williams's contention that if you "do 300 sit-ups and take a shower, you're going to have an incredible day." Speaking for myself, if I started the day doing 300 sit-ups, I'd probably end it by having a massive coronary.

JEFF TESSADA, LIVINGSTON, TENNESSEE

Just *thinking* about doing 300 sit-ups is enough to give us a heart attack.



SUMMER IS NEARLY upon us: the best season for the Superfan! Enjoy these summer days as all Superfans should: by lurking with camera in hand and pop star in mind. If we like what you take, we'll print it, and you'll get a Philips Digital Camera Key Ring. Bingo! With the Key Ring's 1.3 megapixel output and 64 megs of storage, you can take hundreds of photos of your favorite stars in all their rock & roll glory! Please send your photographs (and hey — don't forget to include your name, address and a telephone number where you can be reached) to Superfan!, *Blender*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York, New York 10018. *Snap!*

### BILL MURRAY NOOGIED ME!

Thanks for featuring a piece on my favorite new band, the Von Bondies [The Next Big Thing!, April]. Damn you, Jack White! Reading that the person the Von Bondies would "die to meet" is actor Bill Murray, I was reminded of a supposedly true story I heard once

about a guy who stepped into an elevator to find himself alone with the *Groundhog Day* star. After a couple of moments of complete silence, the guy said, "Wow, no one's ever going to believe me when I tell them I was in an elevator with Bill Murray." "No," Murray said, then grabbed the guy and gave him a savage noogie. "And no one's →



Pharrell Williams is 13 years old.

Justin Stephens (Lee), courtesy of Michael Ton, Reuben Cervera, April Mandap, Amie Kurzyniec, Joni Joyner and Louie LeBron (Superfan!), Marc Belpiste (Williams)

© 2004 American Express Company. Terms, conditions and restrictions apply. Your annual cash reward for everyday purchases at select U.S. supermarkets, gas stations, drugstores, and home improvement stores is up to 3¢, but valid in the departments of appliances or warehouse clubs. Your annual cash reward for all other purchases is up to 1%. You will receive an additional rebate of up to 2% in months in which your account carries a balance. Your cash rewards are limited to \$50,000 of eligible spending. Balance transfers do not earn a cash back reward.

FORWARD ►

MEET BLUE CASH® FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS  
UP TO 5% CASH BACK  
NO ANNUAL FEE  
PAY OVER TIME

CALL 1.800.BLUE.CASH



PAY  
OVER TIME.  
NO  
ANNUAL FEE.  
(PICK TWO)



BLUE CASH



Johnny Knoxville says nothing about the dog poop on his shoe.

★ LETTERS

sticky. Rock on, *Blender* — you get my vote as the best in the biz.

BRIAN CROSBY, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Thanks, Brian. But any stickiness found in your copy of *Blender* has absolutely nothing to do with us.

AM I DRUNK?

Am I the first person to point out that Johnny Knoxville [*My Music*, April] has better taste in music when he's drunk than most celebrities have when they're sober?

TARA KING, WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

Yes.

DUMB WET SLUT!

Thanks for your cover article on Jessica Simpson ["Queen of the Boob Tube," March]. More young women should follow her example and wait until marriage to act like a dumb wet slut.

P.J. FARLIN, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

JANET JACKSON DID WHAT?

I just read through the feature in your March issue about the 25 Sexiest Music Moments in TV History, and I'm rather amused by the timing. Since it must have occurred too late to be included in your compilation, I have to ask: Where would the Janet Jackson Super Bowl flash go? I figure full pierced-nipple boob exposure to the largest TV audience of the year would have to be at or near the top, right?

LUKE ALBERGHINI, ATLANTA

Wait — Janet Jackson did *what*? Was it a big story? Man, someone's gonna get fired for this!

OUTSTANDING BEAUTY!

The lyric on the bottom of page 40 in your March issue ("I wear black on the outside because black is how I feel on the inside") is from the Smiths' "Unloveable," which is such a beautiful song. I went home and played the album it's on, which I hadn't listened to in a long time. Thanks.

SANDY R., NORWALK, CALIFORNIA

IOWA HICKS!

In your March issue, you printed an article about Slipknot working on their new album [*In the Studio*]. They claim they want to do an album that is "different" and compare themselves to Van Gogh, saying he never did the same painting twice. This could not be further from the truth. Van Gogh is probably the worst example they could have used. He would often paint the same still-life over and over. The best instance of this is his famous painting of his bedroom in



*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*'s child-catcher (left); White Stripes' lead singer-puncher

Arles. First he did two drawings of the room; then, after he created the first painting, he decided to make two more copies for his brother and father. Tell those Iowa hicks in Slipknot that they should stick to subjects they understand — such as bad music and goofy Gwar rip-off costumes.

PHILLIP WHITMORE, CHICAGO

Also, everyone in Slipknot has two ears.

CREEPY AS HELL!

Jack White's latest antics ["It Wasn't Me!," April], coupled with his bizarre, allergic-to-sunlight appearance, seem to suggest he's headed down a road not unlike that of another villain — the child-catcher in the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Why has no one noticed this similarity?

MARC SOLOMON, EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK

Egads, you're right! Thanks for pointing that out — and for giving us the opportunity to say *egads!*

BLOODSTAINED BEATDOWN!

Wow! How do you do it? Your March issue has to be the most bloody and beat-down issue of a music magazine ever! How did you get those pictures of the Von Bondies' Jason Stollsteimer, the Libertines' Carl Barat and photographer Nicholas Chirion (who was allegedly hit by Coldplay's Chris Martin), all with smashed faces? It was amusing to see all these guys looking like they'd been in a bar fight with Steven Seagal. Great pictures.

JAVAUGHN SPRINGER, BRONX, NEW YORK

GOOD NAME FOR A BAND! >>>

DURAN DURAN DURAN

DAVID FAULK, METAIRIE, LOUISIANA

Have a good name for a band? Send it to us! We'll pick the best one we get, and if it's yours, you'll win a sweet JVC satellite radio just like the one pictured here — plus three months of Sirius Satellite Radio service, on us!

Please send your entry to *Band Names*, *Blender*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York, New York 10018. Or e-mail to: [bandnames@blender.com](mailto:bandnames@blender.com). Good luck!



HEY, CHECK THIS OUT!

IF POP STARS WERE DOGS ...



BAILEY AND NESTLE, THE DOGS >>>> T.A.T.U., THE POP STARS

DOES YOUR DOG RESEMBLE A POP STAR?

If so, send a photo with your name, address and who your dog is supposed to be to *Blender* at the address below. If we print yours, you'll win an Audiovox/Virgin Mobile CDM-8610 with an additional \$100 of Top Up minutes. *Yup, yup!*

Send your photos to: *If Pop Stars Were Dogs*, *Blender*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York, New York 10018. Or: [your2cents@blender.com](mailto:your2cents@blender.com).



WIN ME!



STICK  
STICK  
STICK



**Foot Locker.**

PUMA is a proud sponsor of the Jamaican Athletics Federation



**BLENDER** TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!

**NEXT ISSUE**

**EXCLUSIVE!**

# JANET JACKSON

**ON SEX, THE SUPER BOWL AND HER STRANGE, STRANGE SIBLING**

**YOUR  
PERFECT  
SUMMER  
THE GIGS!  
THE MOVIES!  
THE CDs!**

**ON SALE**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**



EP



Fu Manchu

CARRY MORE STUFF.



INTRODUCING THE JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED | DOUBLE THE CARGO SPACE | MORE REAR

Jeep and Trail Rated are trademarks of DaimlerChrysler Corporation.



PASSENGER ROOM | 10-INCH LONGER WHEELBASE | 30% QUIETER | THE LEGEND GROWS

ONLY IN A  
**Jeep**  
  
jeep.com

# BURNER

★ XTINA'S BATHWATER! ★ FINLAND'S OZZY! ★ DAVE GROHL'S CHEESE!

## Fruity!

Elton John goes Vegas with the most insane (and sexy) stage ever, including inflatable bananas and nuts

★ ELTON JOHN HAS launched a series of Las Vegas gigs with the greatest rock stage set ever devised.

Designed by top photographer David LaChapelle, the set features a vast LED screen that shows films made especially for the show, including one of Pamela Anderson pole dancing. Suggestive props — including provocatively shaped fruit and fake breasts that shoot streamers across the audience — inflate suddenly at various points throughout the show.



David LaChapelle with Elton John

The set represents the underbelly of Las Vegas and touches on certain addictions and obsessions, LaChapelle explained. "I didn't want it clean," he said, speaking on the phone from the Jacuzzi in the backyard of his Los Angeles home. "People come to Vegas looking to fill a void — those obsessions and addictions are substitutes for love. People come to Vegas looking for that, to fill that space. It's not a judgment — we just wanted to celebrate what Vegas means."

John, 57, asked LaChapelle to design the set for the 4,100-capacity Colosseum at Caesars Palace even though the photographer had no previous theatrical experience.

"He was like, 'I have been in the business 35 years — I want to be surprised,'" LaChapelle, 34, said. "And when he makes decisions, the money people have to follow. He's Elton John. If he's got your back, you have nothing to worry about. No one wants to fuck with him. He is the don of the gay mafia."

John will play roughly 75 greatest-hits shows, consisting of about 15 songs each, at the venue over the next three years. He will fill in on days Céline Dion is not scheduled to appear. *NOEL BODDIE*



Pamela Anderson performs a pole dance on an IMAX-size screen behind Elton John.

### FLIRTATIOUS FRUIT

"All the props inflate," LaChapelle says. "The bananas, the lipstick and the ice-cream cone are not phallic symbols; they are purely phalluses. I was like, 'How many phalluses can we get onstage?'"

#### HOVERING ORGANS

"When we were placing the breasts, they were worried they'd block the seats in the balcony and that people would complain. I said, 'Oh, no! We should charge more for those seats!'"



#### SOAPY SUDS

"The detergent coming from the sky is Fairy Liquid, an English dish-washing soap. Bubbles add lightness. Plus, it's called Fairy Liquid. I gotta represent my peeps!"

#### JUMBO SCREEN

"The screen is 130 feet by 30 feet — it's IMAX size. The pole-dance sequence features Pamela Anderson. I filmed her for the show. Her sequence plays during 'The Bitch Is Back.'"

#### LACTATING BREASTS

"The boobs are gigantic, and they lactate — they explode streamers onto the audience. At the end of 'Saturday Night's All Right for Fighting', there's a big bang, and they go *poof!*"



"Ouch! That stings!"

## BURNED!

Cash's daughter says hemorrhoid ad can't use "Ring of Fire"

THE FAMILY OF Johnny Cash has vetoed an attempt to use the late singer's 1963 hit "Ring of Fire" in a commercial for the hemorrhoid medication Preparation H.

Although Merle Kilgore, who cowrote the song with Cash's wife, June Carter Cash, supported the idea, Cash's daughter Rosanne blocked what she described as a "moronic tie-in," explaining that the song is "about the transformative power of love, and that's what it will always mean."

"I just thought it was kind of funny," Kilgore responded. Kilgore used to dedicate the country classic to the makers of Preparation H when he played the song live. *DORIAN LYNESKY*



## NEWS ROUNDUP!

**RON WOOD** stormed out of his own art exhibition in a rage because his work had been moved. Organizers at New York's Pop International gallery had angered the Rolling Stones guitarist by repositioning his portraits of **JIMI HENDRIX**, **RAY CHARLES** and **CHUCK BERRY**.

**50 CENT** has claimed he was snubbed at the Grammy Awards because of the aggression in his music. "Some people say there is violence in my material," he said, "and there is."

North Carolina's Museum of History is exhibiting some clothes worn by local hero **CLAY AIKEN**. The *American Idol* 2 runner-up has donated the white Italian shirt, pinstriped pants and shoes he wore on the show's Motown night.



Andy McCoy of Hanoi Rocks at home with his wife, Angela

# Ozzski!

Hanoi Rocks guitarist is Finland's own Ozzy Osbourne

★ **ANDY MCCOY**, guitarist for reunited glam-metal band Hanoi Rocks, has become a reality-TV star in his home country, Finland.

*The McCoys Show*, which followed the lives of the 41-year-old McCoy and his American wife, Angela, for 18 weeks, is Scandinavia's answer to *The Osbournes*.

"Andy was by far the best choice," says executive producer Tero Nikulainen about the man who has been called Finland's Keith Richards. "Obviously, there are people who have alcohol problems, but we wanted somebody who was also intelligent and witty. It's

not just social pornography."

The show's highlights usually involve McCoy losing his temper and being largely unintelligible. One fracas at a fashion show on Angela's birthday was widely reported in Finland's national press. On another occasion, police investigated a claim that he slapped a fan.

*The McCoys Show* consistently drew nearly 500,000 viewers (the population of Helsinki is 550,000), and producers are considering a second season.

"People either loved it or hated it," Nikulainen says. "Either way, they watched it." *DORIAN LYNESKY*

"People loved it or hated it — either way, they watched it."

## GARY BUSEY AND CORY

ARE THE NEW

## MICHAEL JACKSON AND BUBBLES



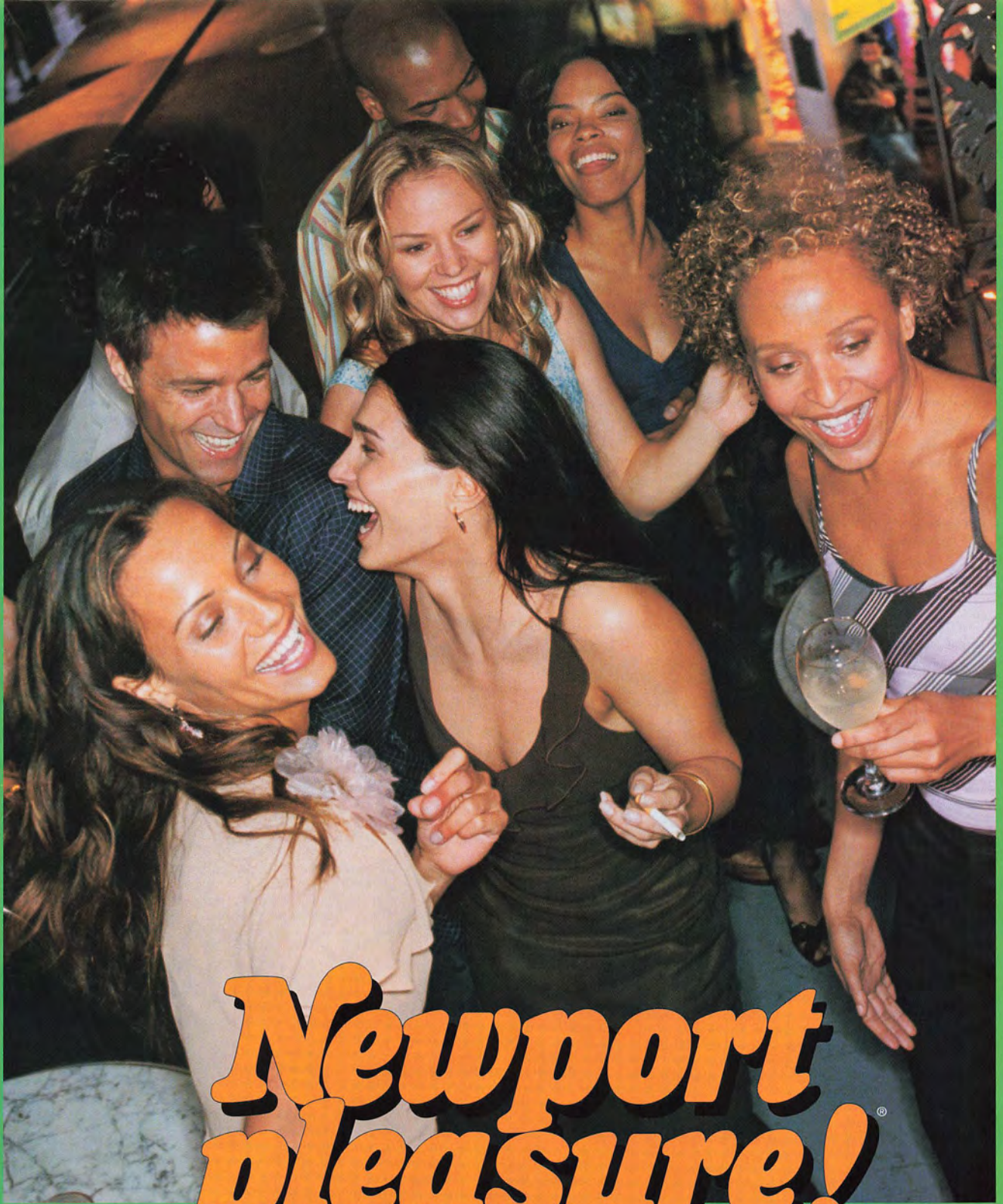
## WORD!



"I look at the other [Grammy] nominees, and I don't feel honored. It's a joke."

KELIS





# Newport pleasure!

© Lorillard 2004

Newport, Newport Medium, Newport (package design), Newport Lights Menthol Box (package design), Newport Pleasure, and Newport Spinnaker TM Lorillard Licensing Company LLC Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm. Off.

Lights Box: 9 mg. "tar," 0.7 mg. nicotine; Medium Box: 11 mg. "tar," 1.0 mg. nicotine; Box: 16 mg. "tar," 1.2 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette  
Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.**



**Finest  
Quality Menthol!**

# The Next Big Thing!

## SNOW PATROL

Northern Ireland's answer to Coldplay drink... a lot

BY NICK DUERDEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LEGO

IT'S MID-MORNING in the center of London, and Snow Patrol's singer, Gary Lightbody, staggers through a hotel lobby unshaven, eyes bloodshot, hair wild. "I need a bacon sandwich," he croaks. "I don't mean to be rude, but I've a hell of a hangover. We were out celebrating last night, and I had a bit too much to drink." He reconsiders. "A lot too much."

Snow Patrol have good reason to celebrate. After nearly 10 years in pop's wilderness, they're finally breaking through. Their third album (and American debut), *Final Straw*, has rapidly sold more than 200,000 copies in the U.K., and the single "Run" — perhaps the most affecting rock song since Coldplay's "Yellow" — is being hailed as a minor classic.

"I still don't know what's going on," Lightbody says. "It's all very disorienting." He shakes his head. "In shows just before Christmas, we were playing to 30 people. Now 2,000 people turn up. It's bizarre."

Snow Patrol,  
from left:  
Mark McClelland,  
Johnny Quinn,  
Gary Lightbody,  
Nathan Connolly

The band — Lightbody, guitarist Nathan Connolly, bassist Mark McClelland and drummer Johnny Quinn, ranging from 22 to 32 years old — are from Northern Ireland, but they met (with the exception of newcomer Connolly) while in college in Scotland eight years ago.

They released two albums on an indie label to scant recognition before being unceremoniously dropped. *Final Straw* was to be their last hurrah — that is, until providence came in the form of a major label, A&M, whose financing

<b>ALL ABOUT US!</b>
IDEAL ACTIVITY WHILE LISTENING TO SNOW PATROL McCLELLAND: "First kiss"
FAVORITE MOVIE ON THE TOUR BUS CONNOLLY AND McCLELLAND: "Old School."
THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING IRISH LIGHTBODY: "We get all the free leprechauns we can eat!"
FAVORITE SONG RIGHT NOW QUINN: "'Boy Boy Boy,' by Iain Archer."
LYRIC YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF HAVING WRITTEN LIGHTBODY: "It's not a crime if it's dead when you find it."
IS IT ANNOYING TO BE COMPARED TO COLDPLAY? QUINN: "If they were shite, it'd be very annoying."

allowed them to make their dream record. The result is wonderfully melancholic, with songs about bruised passion and optimism.

"I'm expecting things to go wrong, because they always have in the past," Lightbody says ruefully. "The reaction so far is amazing, but we're going to take one day at a time." He allows himself a smile. "One day and, more importantly, one drink." [BLENDER]

>>> **OUT NOW** FINAL STRAW A&M



**A wonderfully melancholic album about bruised passion and optimism.**



**DAMAGE**  
White



His second measurement of the day...

Do You Rock?

# Dave Grohl

Does the Foo Fighters frontman and Probot headbanger... rock?

**Best rumor about yourself?**

That I'm nailing Christina Aguilera.

**Ever trashed a hotel room?**

Once, I threw someone through a massive second-floor window. Luckily, the curtains were closed, or he would have been decapitated. It made a sound out of a Bruce Willis movie. It was fucking amazing.

**Largest number of people you've woken up next to in a hotel bed?**

Six, but I was in a hardcore band and we could only afford one hotel room, so it was just guys.

**Biggest celeb's home that you've ever gotten drunk in?**

Brian May [of Queen]'s house. I had whiskey at Freddie Mercury's piano!

**Worst place you've been sick?**

Onstage in Japan, I almost puked and shit my brains out in front of 5,000 people. When I ran offstage, they all screamed "Dave Grohl! Asshole!"

**Brush with the law?**

Just a DUI every once in a while.

**Worst tour horror story?**

When I was a kid in Scream, I had to kick some stupid drunk German punk's ass for stealing our T-shirts.

**What's your least favorite city?**

Jakarta, Indonesia. It was difficult to watch security cane people all night.

**Ever harbor a fugitive of the law?**

I was young, and a friend was on the run for writing bad checks. I had no idea he was dealing coke!

**Craziest rider clause?**

Fine, stinky European cheese. *DAVE HILL*



VERDICT

THE GERMAN-PUNK BEATDOWN AND WINDOW TOSS SEAL IT: DAVE GROHL ROCKS!

→ PROBOT'S SELF-TITLED DEBUT (SOUTHERN LORD) IS OUT NOW.

## NEWS ROUNDUP!

**BOY GEORGE** has agreed to pay \$18,000 for hitting an employee of a London nightclub. The lawyer for Andrew Thompson said he had gone ahead with the case because the former Culture Club singer-DJ had refused to apologize.

**DREW BARRY-MORE** is delaying her planned wedding to Strokes drummer **FABRIZIO MORETTI**. A friend of the actress's said that whenever Moretti brings up the subject, she claims she's not ready to marry yet.

**JUSTIN HAWKINS**, lead singer for the Darkness, challenged **50 CENT** to a game of Ping-Pong backstage at the Brit Awards recently. As the rapper reportedly glared, one of his bodyguards told Hawkins, "No way, freak."

**OZZY OSBOURNE** has responded to an appeal and donated a sizable sum to a small village shop near his estate in England to prevent its closure.

WORD!



"I'm very over myself."  
NORAH JONES



Senator John Kerry (left) and his war-protesting friend John Lennon, 1971

# Groovy Pals!

John Kerry and John Lennon protested the Vietnam war together

★ **BLENDER** HAS OBTAINED a photograph of Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry with John Lennon that was taken in 1971. The pair met when Lennon asked Kerry to introduce him at an anti-war rally in Washington, D.C.

When asked to pick his favorite Beatle for the November 2003 issue of *Blender*, Kerry replied, "Definitely John Lennon. He was a genius. My photo with him is one of my prized possessions. It was a thrill hanging with him. We chatted about where

his head was at, about the war and how to end the thing."

The authentic snapshot should not be confused with liberal-bashing hoaxes circulating on the Internet, including one depicting Kerry and Jane Fonda at a podium.

During his 1968-'69 service, Kerry earned a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and three Purple Heart medals. In 1971, he joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War and organized protests that led to his encounter with the ex-Beatle. *CHUCK MINDENHALL*

## Pop Star Must-Have

# SISTERS!

For pop divas, loyalty is in short supply. That's why sisters make such excellent dates!



Michael and Janet Jackson



Ashley and Jessica Simpson



Lynda and Jennifer Lopez

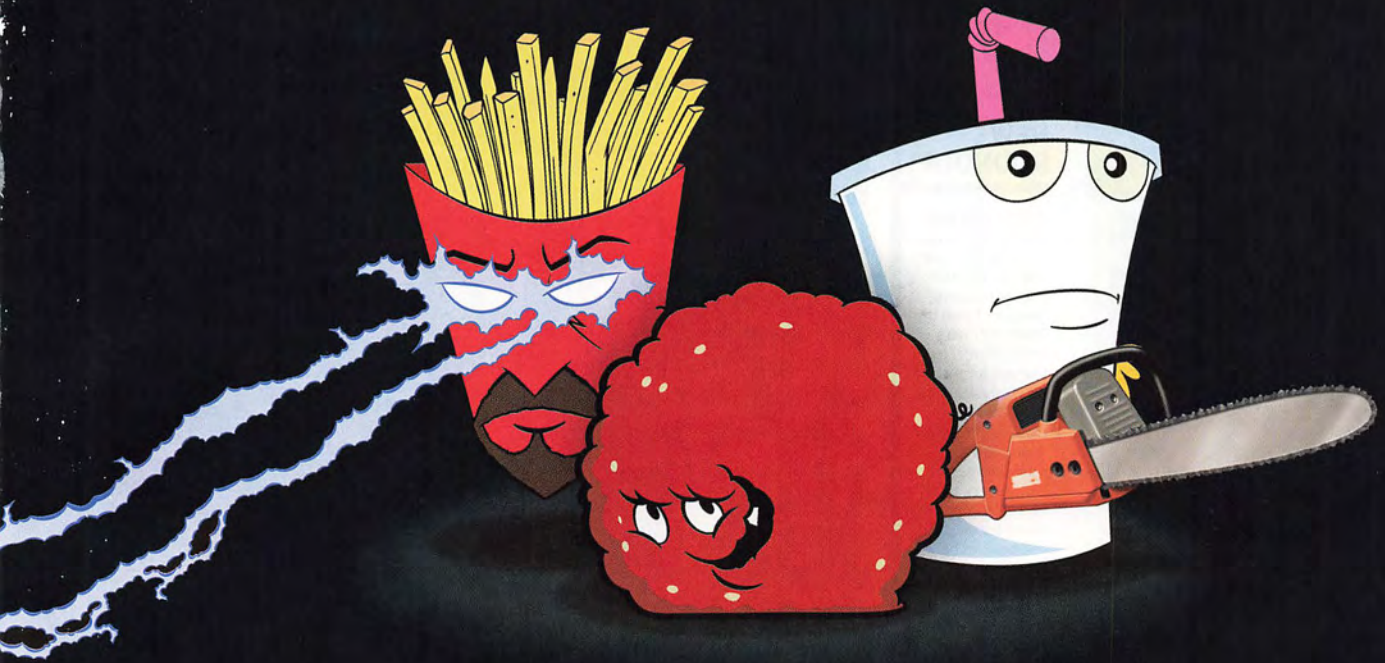


Beyoncé and Solange Knowles



Kylie and Danni Minogue

Clockwise from top left: John McHurrine/RetnaUK; courtesy of the John Kerry campaign; Kevin Mazur/WireImage.com; James Veasey/Camera Press/Retna Ltd.; Tamme Arroyo/AP/Retna Ltd.; Caillie/WireImage.com; Paul Smith/Feature Flash/Retna Ltd.; Gary French (illustration)



WHET YOUR APPETITE FOR  
CRAZY AS HELL!

**AQUA  
TEEN**  
HUNGER FORCE™

MIDNIGHTS SUN-WED

[adult swim]

CARTOON  
NETWORK  
adultswim.com

What's in Your Bag?



"Allo, sheet-head Americanz. We are French."

**AIR**

Other Music, 15 East 4th Street, New York



**OUTKAST**  
**SPEAKERBOXXX/  
THE LOVE BELOW**

**NICOLAS GODIN:** "The best electronic musicians right now are hip-hop guys. Outkast do the opposite of what we do, and that's what we like!"



**GRACE JONES**  
**LIVING MY LIFE**

**JEAN-BENOIT DUNCKEL:** "I think this is a masterpiece. I don't understand how this girl can be so pretty and sing so well. She seems to be into voodoo!"



**EDDIE HARRIS**  
**THE ELECTRIFYING  
EDDIE HARRIS**

**GODIN:** "When classic instruments meet electronic ones, it's very cool. For me, in jazz there was Eddie Harris; in rock there was Iggy Pop."



**BOB DYLAN**  
**GREATEST HITS**

**DUNCKEL:** "The guitar chords are wonderful. What I like about Dylan is that he seems to be in a bad mood all the time, and also very bitchy!"

SARAH WILSON

→ AIR'S NEW ALBUM, *TALKIE WALKIE* (ASTRALWERKS), IS OUT NOW.

**NEWS ROUNDUP!**

**SUM 41** have been sued for \$6 million for throwing a hot dog at a baseball fan and including footage of it on the 2002 DVD *Does This Look Infected?* Lawyers for plaintiff Michael Sudore claim that since the DVD's release, their client has suffered trauma and damage to his home-improvements business: "He believes his reputation has been tarnished."

**ELTON JOHN** has admitted that it's time to tone down his appearance and start dressing like a 57-year-old.

**SNOOP DOGG** revealed how he landed the part of Huggy Bear in *Starsky & Hutch*: by starting a rumor that he had already been cast. "I forced [the filmmakers] into a corner so they had to give it to me," he said.

**WORD!**



"I did write Britney a letter regarding the *Blender* article. It was about the fact that being two female artists, we've got to be there for each other."

CHRISTINA AGUILERA



Paris Hilton squeals!

Tyra Banks stretches!

Juliette Lewis squats!

**Songbirds!**

Ladies known for romping, modeling, acting want to be pop stars!

★ SEVERAL LADIES known more for their cheekbones than their voices are making a play for the charts.

Tyra Banks's debut video, "Shake Ya Body," premiered after the February 24 episode of her UPN show, *America's Next Top Model*, and an album is due this year. Banks has been in and out of studios for six years, but convincing audiences she's more than a pretty face won't be easy. "If you're a model, they don't want you to sing," Banks says. Naomi Campbell's CD *Baby Woman*

flopped upon its release in 1995.

Paris Hilton is juggling careers as she shoots a second season of *The Simple Life* and toils away on a dance-pop album with JC Chasez's producer, Rob Boldt. Hilton has shrouded the project, which has no release date or label, in secrecy, and Boldt is also loath to reveal details.

Finally, actress Juliette Lewis has been performing in L.A. with Camp Freddy (featuring Billy Morrison and Donovan Leitch) and shopping for a record deal. STEVE KANDELL

**Weird Band Alert!**

**THE MUSCLE FACTORY**

Ripped Philadelphians who first rock you — and then bench-press you

What's going on here?

The Muscle Factory is an ensemble of weightlifters from Philadelphia who play ambient songs with titles like "Pump to Failure," "When You Pump, You're Powerful" and "The Spotter."

Are they here to pump . . . us up?

Yes, apparently. "We provide an alternative," says lead singer Darren Finizio, a.k.a. "Gage." "You can come and work out — it's better than just drinking beer." Fans have been known to climb onstage and lift barbells.



"Ladies and gentlemen, on lead biceps . . ."

What else are they inspiring us to do?

Sample lyrics offer clues: "Pump the weight with fury/Think of what you lack/Erase these things/I want the soft spots to be stripped/Ripped/Your body is a garden/I'm getting closer to my goals."

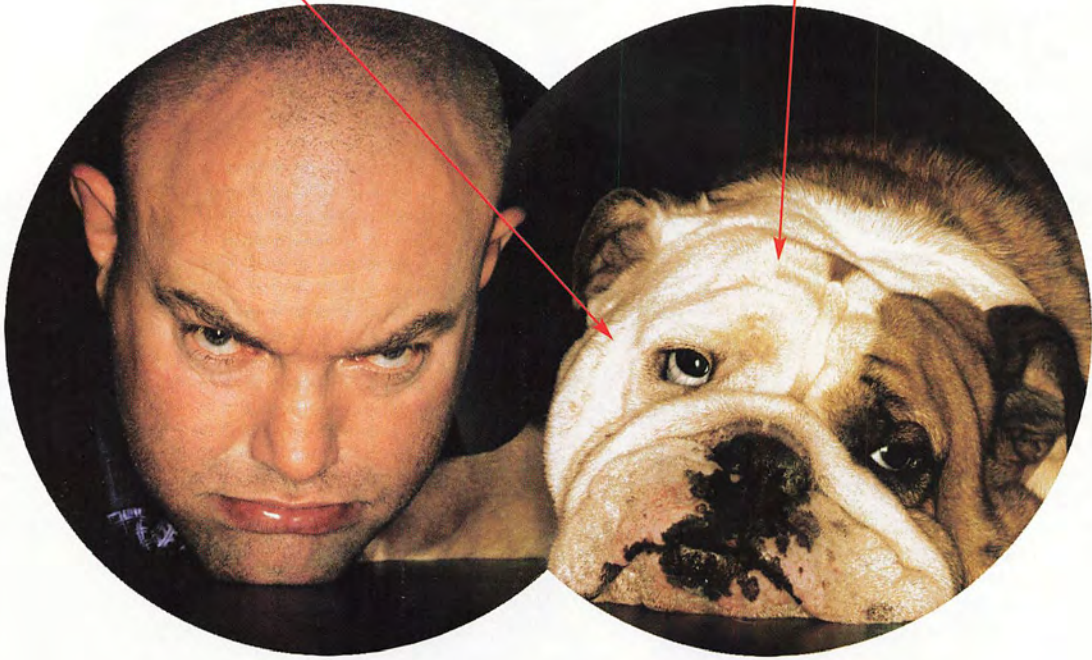
Closer to which goals?

"Muscle Factory will play on *Conan O'Brien* one day," Finizio says. "I'm sure he can appreciate workout music." ARYE DWORZEN

Tim Sater (Air, 5). Splash News (Hilton, Lewis), WENN/Newscom.com (Banks), courtesy of the Muscle Factory (The Muscle Factory); Gary French (illustration)

canine cookies for a family member: \$11

weekend obedience school for a family member: \$210



family resemblance: priceless



# The Next Big Thing!

## CHRISTINA MILIAN

Neither divorce nor loneliness nor *Sister Sister* can stop this ambitious Cuban-American

BY NICK DUERDEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK HOELCK

WHEN CHRISTINA MILIAN scored her first U.S. hit, "AM to PM," in 2001, she was a showbiz veteran of six years. Born in New Jersey to Cuban parents, by age 13 she had relocated to Los Angeles with Mom, while Dad remained back home. His job as a medical technician helped fund his daughter's dream.

"At first, we planned to stay only six months," she explains, "but I started getting commercials, so we stayed!"

While her parents' long-distance marriage was crumbling (it eventually ended in divorce), Milian was landing guest spots on the TV shows *Charmed* and *Sister Sister*. Her mother, a maker of porcelain dolls, became her manager.

"This is my passion," Milian, 22, says. "It's a tough career choice, but let me tell you, it's so worth it."

Although her self-titled first album never secured a U.S. release (her record label called it too poppy), it sold more than 400,000 copies worldwide and established her career in Europe and Asia. Back in America, she wrote the hit "Play" for Jennifer Lopez and began building a movie career, landing a role in the action flick *Torque*. She's also appearing in the upcoming comedy *Be Cool* alongside John Travolta.

She has now completed her official U.S. debut, *It's About Time*, and its glitzy urban flavor — reminiscent of the music of Lopez — will, she assures, "finally make me a star here. I'm totally committed to making that happen." Even if it comes at further personal cost: Milian admits to having few friends outside the business. When she does socialize, it's at dinner meetings rather than dinner parties, and she has no time for a boyfriend.

"My mom is always with me, and she's just great," Milian insists. "Everything else can wait, because entertainment is my life." [BLENDER]

It's reminiscent of the music of Jennifer Lopez.

>>> OUT NOW IT'S ABOUT TIME ISLAND

### ALL ABOUT ME!

**BIRTHDATE**  
September 26, 1981

**OBSESSIONS**  
"Shoes and monkeys."

**FAVORITE SONG RIGHT NOW**  
"Yeah!" by Usher."

**MOST DIVA-LIKE DEMAND**  
"I don't have any diva-like requests . . . that I know of."

**LYRIC I'M PROUDEST OF HAVING WRITTEN**  
"You look at your neighbor thinkin' 'What a guy' cuz he's got a 9-to-5, but I bet that you don't realize he stalks you while you sleep at night." ("When U Look at Me")

BLUE BABY-DOLL DRESS BY D&G  
LARGE HOOP EARRINGS WITH  
CRYSTAL BY SHALO KAREEN





LEGAL IN ALL 50 STATES

**GET THIS T-SHIRT FREE**

With proofs of purchase and \$2.00 shipping/handling

HERSHEY'S exclusive T-shirts are made of durable, 100% pre-shrunk cotton. To receive your FREE T-shirt, print your full name and complete address on this form and mail it with the required proofs of purchase and a check or money order for shipping and handling charges (payable to HERSHEY'S T-shirt Offer) for each T-shirt ordered. Limit 2 T-shirts per order and address.

Mail to: Hershey's T-shirt Offer,  
P.O. Box 8620 Dept M3, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677-8620

[HERSHEYSHAPPINESS.COM](http://HERSHEYSHAPPINESS.COM)

NAME

Please print clearly

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

T-shirt Description	Quantity	Size(s) S, M, L, XL
LEGAL IN ALL 50 STATES		

Required proofs of purchase\* and shipping/handling enclosed (check one):

One T-shirt 15 Proofs + \$2.00 S&H       Two T-shirts 25 Proofs + \$3.50 S&H

\*Only original wrappers from HERSHEY'S Milk Chocolate Bars and HERSHEY'S Milk Chocolate with Almond Bars (1.45 oz. or larger) complete with UPC symbols will be accepted as proofs of purchase.

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery. Void if taxed, restricted or prohibited by law. Offer good only in the U.S.A. The required proofs of purchase may not be mechanically reproduced. Hershey Foods Corporation is not responsible for mutilated, illegible, incomplete, lost, misdirected, postage-due or stolen submissions. All materials submitted as part of this offer become the property of Hershey Foods Corporation and will not be returned. Offer good until September 30, 2004, or while supplies last.





3 Doors Down: Todd Harrell circled

## BASHER!

3 Doors Down bassist allegedly hits a middle-aged man — again!

3 DOORS DOWN bassist Todd Harrell was charged with assault after he allegedly hit a 53-year-old newspaper deliveryman outside a Cheap-O Deep-O store in Moss Point, Mississippi — his second alleged punch-up with a middle-aged man.

Ronnie Boulware, who claims Harrell, 32,

took three papers out of a coin-operated machine and paid for only one, says he confronted Harrell, who allegedly responded by hitting the deliveryman three times in the face and kicking him in the groin. Boulware then went to his car and brandished a gun, a move he claims he made in self-defense.

Harrell's lawyer says his client did not steal; his publicist says he bought the copies because they contained an article about him working with schoolchildren. In May 2002, he was charged with assault after allegedly hitting a 49-year-old man at a party. Harrell, who was cleared of that charge, was unavailable for comment. NOEL BODDIE



Harrell, seen here wrestling a middle-aged alligator

## NEWS ROUNDUP!

**EMINEM** is suing computer giant Apple for its commercial featuring a young boy singing along to "Lose Yourself." The lawsuit, which also names MTV and ad agency TBWA/Chiat/Day, claims the defendants "have acted recklessly, willfully and in bad faith."

**PAUL McCARTNEY's** wife, Heather, has reportedly ordered the star to stop smoking marijuana. "Heather was very firm and said that cannabis is a gateway drug that can lead to schizophrenia," an insider said. "She joked that if he smokes it, he's out."

Upon hearing that he was the inspiration for Johnny Depp's Oscar-nominated performance in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Rolling Stones legend **KEITH RICHARDS** donated his own pirate's coat and scarf to Depp's wardrobe. "I thought it was great. I could laugh at myself," he said.



Aguilera "tubing" in the water that was auctioned on eBay

# Ewww!

Christina Aguilera's pool water and thong sold on eBay!

★ AN EBAY AUCTION for Christina Aguilera's thong and pool water, acquired during a *Maxim* photo shoot, fetched \$1,480 and more than 60,000 hits a day.

The seller initially obtained the booty — one white thong, a sealed tub of the pool water Aguilera posed in, notes of authenticity and pointers from the pop diva on how single

men can win her affections — through a BBC Radio One contest in England.

The seller, who wished to remain anonymous, claims he put the items up for auction because he was "bored while trying to work."

The thirty-sixth bidder, the winner of the auction, could not be reached for comment. CHUCK MINDENHALL

## Tell Us a Joke!



### JOE JACKSON

"Paddy to Murphy: 'So, how d'ye like that toilet brush I sent ye for yer birthday?'"

"Murphy to Paddy: 'Aaargh, it's turrible! Oi'm goin' back on the paper.'"

AS TOLD TO SEAMUS O'HALLORAN-MCSMYTHE

## WORD!



"Breasts are fine. What's the big deal about breasts?"

MOBEY

## "GUILTY"

Jack White sentenced for brawl

JACK WHITE, wearing a dark pinstriped suit and auburn scarecrow hair flowing under a derby hat, pleaded guilty to attacking Von Bondies singer Jason Stollsteimer at the Detroit club the Magic Stick last December. The White Stripes frontman was fined \$500 plus court costs, and ordered to attend anger-management classes.

Despite pleading guilty, White defended his actions. "This was a personal matter, not a press promotion," he said. "I regret allowing myself to be provoked to the point of getting into a fistfight, but I was raised to believe honor and integrity mean something and that those principles are worth defending." JON REGARDIE



White leaving court in a pinstriped suit, not a pinstriped jumper

Justin Stephens (Harrell); Alphonse Teymonde (left); Jeff Kowalsky/EPA/Landov (White); Gary French (illustration)



TRUE MUSIC DOESN'T WASH OFF FOR A COUPLE DAYS.

Britney, managing her personal boundaries



**BRITNEY WATCH!**

## REFORMED?

Divorced Britney turns to celibacy, Christianity and hypnotherapy

BRITNEY SPEARS HAS become a victim of her own sexualized image — and this is why the troubled singer has turned to celibacy and the church, says a spiritual-advice writer and clergyman.

Bishop George Bloomer, who believes the star recently skirted close to a mental breakdown, feels she found help just in time. "Most people come to God or embrace religion out of their desperation," Bloomer told *Blender*. "If we're dealing with church, it means there's an emptiness, a void."

Bloomer, the author of *Empowered From Above and When Loving You Is Wrong*, maintains Spears's conversion to celibacy is a positive step.

"In Christian counseling, one of the greatest ways for young ladies to take control of their life is to shut down their sexuality," he said. "For me, that's a sign that they're about to straighten things out."

Following an emergency intervention from her family, Spears has sworn off sex; attends emotional church meetings; has started seeing a therapist; has been photographed carrying copies of Peter Kramer's *Listening to Prozac* and Neale Donald Walsh's bestseller on spiritual guidance, *Conversations With God*; and has turned to hypnotherapy in an attempt to kick her nicotine habit. She has also been spotted wearing a large crucifix. STEVE LOWE



Britney, clutching a book about Prozac

**"Ladies take control of their lives by shutting down their sexuality."**

## NEWS ROUNDUP!

**DAVID CROSBY** was arrested in a Times Square hotel after an employee there allegedly found a loaded handgun and a small amount of marijuana in his luggage. Police said the 62-year-old founding member of the Byrds and Crosby, Stills & Nash left the bag in the hotel; the employee went through it looking for identification, finding the gun and the drug stash.

Bassist **NICK OLIVERI** has revealed that he has been fired from **QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE**. In an Internet posting, he accused Queens bandmate **JOSH HOMME** of selling out the band's "ego-free" principles and getting "poisoned by hunger for power and by control issues."

**MICHAEL JACKSON's** French girlfriend, 20-year-old Joanna Thoma, claims she would marry the troubled star. Although the couple have not yet had sex, she claimed, "We kiss each other. The rest is private."

## WORD!



**"I hate them. They suck. They're trying to mimic Spinal Tap."**

JON BON JOVI, ON THE DARKNESS



This is not a comedian impersonating Lil Jon. OK!

## In the Studio

# "Yeah! OK! Whaat?"

Lil Jon's new record is, perhaps unsurprisingly, "for the ladies"

★ "IF YOU GOT women on the dance floor, then the club is poppin'," says the self-proclaimed king of crunk, Lil Jon.

He should know. The 30-year-old Atlanta-bred rapper, born Jonathan Smith, spent 10 years on the Dirty South DJ-and-production circuit before his astonishing chart success.

As well as his hits "Get Low" and "I Don't Give a Fuck," Lil Jon produced Usher's number 1 hit "Yeah!" His 2002 album, *Kings of Crunk*, has gone double-platinum.

Now he's hoping to repeat the trick for his follow-up, *Crunk Juice*, with help from pals Missy Elliott, Ludacris and Usher. "Luda and Usher and me are thinking about going crazy on some club shit for the ladies," he says. Megaproducer Timbaland might take over some of the production

duties, and rock heavyweight Rick Rubin will add his touch to "street tracks" that will inspire "mosh pits" — a surprising departure from the crunk sound Lil Jon brought to the mainstream. His robust yelling over booming bass is so well-known, he was lampooned on Comedy

Central's *Chappelle's Show* as incapable of saying anything other than *yeah!*, *OK!* and *whaat?* Lil Jon, however, was unruffled.

"It was spot-on," he says, smiling. "I don't mind. I can take it."

Though Lil Jon and the Eastside Boyz (Big Sam and Lil Bo) are supposed to be working hard in a multi-

million-dollar Miami mansion-cum-studio, they can still be found in the clubs and out fishing for yellowtail.

"Music is about a vibe," he explains. "You can't force the shit. You have to have fun and relax and let it flow." JESSICA HUNDLEY

### ALL ABOUT OUR ALBUM!

**ARTISTS**  
Lil Jon and the Eastside Boyz

**STUDIO**  
Their own makeshift mansion in Miami

**PRODUCER**  
Lil Jon

**LAST RECORD**  
*Kings of Crunk* (TVT, 2002)

**NEXT RECORD**  
*Crunk Juice* (out September)

### ALSO IN THE STUDIO



« **THE BEASTIE BOYS** are putting the finishing touches on their latest comeback record (due this summer, so far untitled) at their studio in lower Manhattan...

Texas family quintet **EISLEY** are recording their major-label debut, which is scheduled for release this summer, with producer Rob Schnapf in Los Angeles...

East Coast rapper **TALIB KWELI** is working on his second solo album, *Beautiful Struggle*, produced in part by Kanye West and featuring Mary J. Blige...

**THE (INTERNATIONAL) NOISE CONSPIRACY** are recording the follow-up to their 2002 EP with Rick Rubin in Los Angeles and their native Sweden...

Spash News (Spears, top); Jeffery Seltzer (Lil Jon); JFX(x17 Agency) (Spears with book); Gary French (illustration)



# FINAL FANTASY XI ONLINE

The forces of the evil beastmen are gathering, casting a shadow of uncertainty over the future of Vana'diel. Now three proud nations must unite in an epic battle whose outcome depends on you. Enter the vast realm of FINAL FANTASY XI Online, where you can join forces with people from all over North America, as well as Japan. Immerse yourself in a persistent world that continues evolving whether you're in it or not. And even play across platforms with PC gamers as you work together to alter the course of Vana'diel history. FINAL FANTASY XI. Infinitely beyond.<sup>XI</sup>



Introducing the internal Hard Disk Drive (40GB) (for PlayStation 2). Included with your purchase of FINAL FANTASY XI, the HDD exponentially expands the PlayStation 2 experience. With it, it's possible to download content like new missions, levels and characters. Experience persistent worlds. And even speed up loading times. It's just one more way the world of PlayStation 2 is constantly evolving.



LIVE IN YOUR WORLD.  
PLAY IN OURS.



Game Experience May Change During Online Play

PlayOnline.



SQUARE ENIX.

PlayStation 2

[www.us.playstation.com](http://www.us.playstation.com) Online play requires Internet connection and Network Adaptor (for PlayStation 2) (sold separately). Players are responsible for all applicable Internet and subscription fees. Children under the age of 13 are not permitted to use PlayOnline services, including games. Acceptance of certain agreements is required. A valid credit card required to set up account. Free subscription for 30 days. Some restrictions may apply. ©2001-2004 SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. All Rights Reserved. Title Design by Yoshitaka Amano. FINAL FANTASY and VANA'DIEL are registered trademarks of Square Enix Co., Ltd. SQUARE ENIX, the SQUARE ENIX logo, PLAYONLINE and the PlayOnline logo are trademarks of Square Enix Co., Ltd. "PlayStation" and the "PS" Family logo are registered trademarks and the HDD is a trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. The Online icon and "Live In Your World. Play In Ours." are trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc.

## Useful Tips From the Stars!

HOW TO...

## Make a Mix-CD Cover!

Superstar DJs **Basement Jaxx** show you how to make cover art out of whatever crap you have lying around the house!

BY STEVE KANDELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUDE EDGINTON

## 1 PERSONALIZE IT!

**FELIX BUXTON:** "I've made lovely mixes for girlfriends after I first met them. Making one is a sign that you're being really giving of yourself, so you need to tailor the art to the person you're trying to connect with. Use color, tone and texture to create the vibe."

## 2 GET INSPIRED!

**SIMON RADCLIFFE:** "Grab some magazines or get your hands on anything that may help you find interesting ideas — and definitely a spliff. It's all about getting one thing to inspire you and building off that. Listen to the music, too. The freer the music, the freer your mindset."

## 3 GET IT TOGETHER!

**BUXTON:** "If you're making a mix for a girl, the art has to show loads of effort. Use what you have around and make something of it. I've done paintings and even crayon drawings for covers. For *Kish Kash*, I cut up bits of heraldry, feathers and paintings."

## 4 GIVE IT A NAME!

**RADCLIFFE:** "You're building a story with the title. Saving it for last gives you the chance to match it to the artwork. Cut-up type from magazines works well if you don't have a specific font in mind. A mix captures a single moment in time, so put some thought into it!"

Basement Jaxx,  
from left:  
Felix Buxton,  
Simon Radcliffe



**Travel Light**

[www.jokerpapers.com](http://www.jokerpapers.com)



*New* Joker Orange King Size and Pure Hemp 1/2.  
Different smokes for different folks.

*A Smokin' Good Time*

© 2004 R&B



**BOOZED!**

Nü-grunge poster boy Wes Scantlin gets drunk, alienates band, abuses fans, goes to jail. Nice one!



I'm, heh, too fucked up to —errrp!— perform!

1 Onstage in Toledo, Ohio, Puddle of Mudd cut short their set after singer Wes Scantlin admits he has been drinking heavily.



2 Abandoned by his embarrassed bandmates, Scantlin screams obscenities at the audience, which hurls trash and bottles at him.



3 On returning to his dressing room, Scantlin is arrested by police. "We thought we were going to have a riot based on the guy's conduct," says state liquor agent Earl Mack.



4 Angry fans surround the squad car, demanding their money back. Scantlin spits on the window from the inside. Released on \$150 bail, Scantlin refused to comment.



**PLAYLIST**

The best new songs to download!\*

**NORAH JONES "TOES"**

The pop star with more cardigans than Mr. Rogers sings a sweetly lazy song about wanting to fall in love but always falling short. "My toes just touch the water," her earthy voice repeats regretfully.

**ONEIDA "CAESAR'S COLUMN"**

Chugging along on a one-note groove, these NYC stoner-droners sound like Sonic Youth in a menacing hydro-ponic haze over a guitar that sounds like the \$6 Million Man running.

**GHOSTFACE KILLAH FEAT. MISSY ELLIOTT "TUSH"**

The title rhymes with *push* and *bush*, a fact not lost on Missy, who's extra-raunchy on this single. Ghostface boldly tells her to "leave your friends, 'cause we don't need no cock-block hens."

**WORD!**



"Musically, my dream is to do what Norah Jones did. I can't play the piano, but to sit next to the piano and just sing. . . ."

JESSICA SIMPSON

**Life After Rock**



The Circle Jerks, from left: Keith Clark, Zander Schloss, Keith Morris, Greg Hetson

**Keith Clark**

[ OF THE CIRCLE JERKS ]



**THEN!**  
DRUMMER,  
1983–1995

**NOW!**  
TAX ACCOUNTANT,  
LOS ANGELES

★ "BEFORE I JOINED the Circle Jerks, I was playing in Mega-death, a heavy-metal version of Spinal Tap with songs like 'Make the Bitch Pay' and 'Killing for Jesus.' Keith Morris [the Circle Jerks' singer] would come to our shows, and when he needed a drummer, he asked me. I didn't start out as a punk rocker, but I grew to like the music.

"The early '80s were radical. We were very underground, doing six or eight tours each record. People would stage-dive off 25-foot-high speakers and carve CIRCLE JERKS into their arms with knives. Kids who were into the music were into it 100 percent.

"People think that as a punk rocker you're tearing up hotel rooms or driving cars into swimming pools, but we were quite professional. As far as groupies go, we primarily attracted 16-year-old males. If we got chicks, we'd have to work for them.

"While I was in the band, I had a dual income. I did tax returns between February and April, and then toured the rest of the time. In 1981, I started my own business, which has grown so much over the years that I don't have time to tour with the band anymore.

"My clients are primarily involved in the music industry. I also deal with movie people like

**"As for groupies, we attracted 16-year-old males."**

grips, lighting directors and animators. My clients think of me as someone who can see eye-to-eye with other creative people, and I like low-maintenance individuals who just want to get some quality tax work done.

"There's a link between punk-rock ethos and doing tax returns. People think punk is about not caring about anything, but it's the opposite — it's the expression of feelings. A punk-rock accountant wouldn't try to screw you over." AS TOLD TO RANDY HABERK

\* Note: Not all of the "Playlist" songs are legally available for download — yet. In those instances, Blender encourages you to purchase the original CD. Splash News (Scantlin), John Jay (Scantlin illustrations), Chris Toliver/Retna Ltd. (The Circle Jerks); courtesy of Keith Clark (Clark); Gary French (Simpson illustration)



# GARNIER® FRUCTIS®

The First Fortifying **Anti-Dandruff** Shampoo  
created with fruit concentrate from Garnier

- Created with the #1 selling dandruff-fighting ingredient.
- Works from the first wash for **effective** dandruff protection.

**For hair that shines with all its strength.**



**No flakes, guaranteed.\***

GARNIER

\* No visible flakes with regular use. If not satisfied, call 1800 4GARNIER for a full refund.

## BAGGED!

In February, Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher walked the London streets with a sack over his head. But why?



1 After allegedly hitting a photographer that night, Gallagher adopts a fashionable disguise: a bag from boutique Paul Smith.



Nothing to see here, just a bag on me head....

2 Gallagher's walk toward his car is clear, thanks to two holes cut into the bag.



3 An Oasis spokesman later denies that Gallagher had hit the photographer. Or put a bag on his head.

## OBITS

**DORIS TROY**  
67, February 16, in Las Vegas. R&B one-hit wonder who took 1963's "Just One Look" to the Top 10. Troy, who had emphysema, sang background on the Rolling Stones' *Let It Bleed* and Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*.

**GENE HUGHES**  
67, February 3, in Nashville, after a car accident. Singer with the Cincinnati doo-wop group the Casinos, who scored a pop hit with 1967's "Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye." Hughes spent his later years as a well-known Nashville record-company promo man.

**ESTELLE AXTON**  
85, February 24, in Memphis, of natural causes. Cofounder of Stax Records, home to '60s and '70s soul stars Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Sam and Dave, the Staple Singers and Booker T. & the MG's. Stax's hit singles were the gritty alternative to Motown Records' poppier sound.

**JASON RAIZE**  
28, February 3, in Yass, Australia, of suicide. A Broadway performer who played Simba in the original stage company of *The Lion King*, Raize signed a recording contract with Universal and sang "The Sounds of Silence" on a 1998 tribute album to Paul Simon.

The six-foot-tall *Rhythm Nation* mouse removed from Disney World



IT'S THE NEW PURITANISM!



Jackson, moments before "Boobygate"

# Banned!

Conservatives launch witch hunts after Janet's right-boob peek

★ IN THE WAKE of Janet Jackson's infamous Super Bowl halftime "wardrobe malfunction," potentially controversial material has been squelched for fear of alienating audiences. Some of the fallout that has occurred since February:

- A six-foot-tall, 700-pound statue of Mickey Mouse dressed in Jackson's trademark *Rhythm Nation 1814* outfit was removed from Disney World's exhibit commemorating Mickey's seventy-fifth birthday.

- Jackson was fired from her starring role in a biopic of jazz singer Lena Horne at the 86-year-old Horne's insistence.

- Howard Stern was booted from some Clear Channel radio stations the same day that the company's CEO testified to Congress about its "zero tolerance" policy against indecency on the airwaves. Another Clear Channel personality, Florida radio DJ Bubba the Love Sponge, was fired after the company was threatened with a \$755,000 fine for

airing sexually explicit material.

- MTV, which produced the halftime show, briefly moved provocative videos — such as Britney Spears's "Toxic," Blink-182's "I Miss You" and Maroon 5's "This Love" — to the 10 P.M.-to-6 A.M. graveyard slot after the incident.

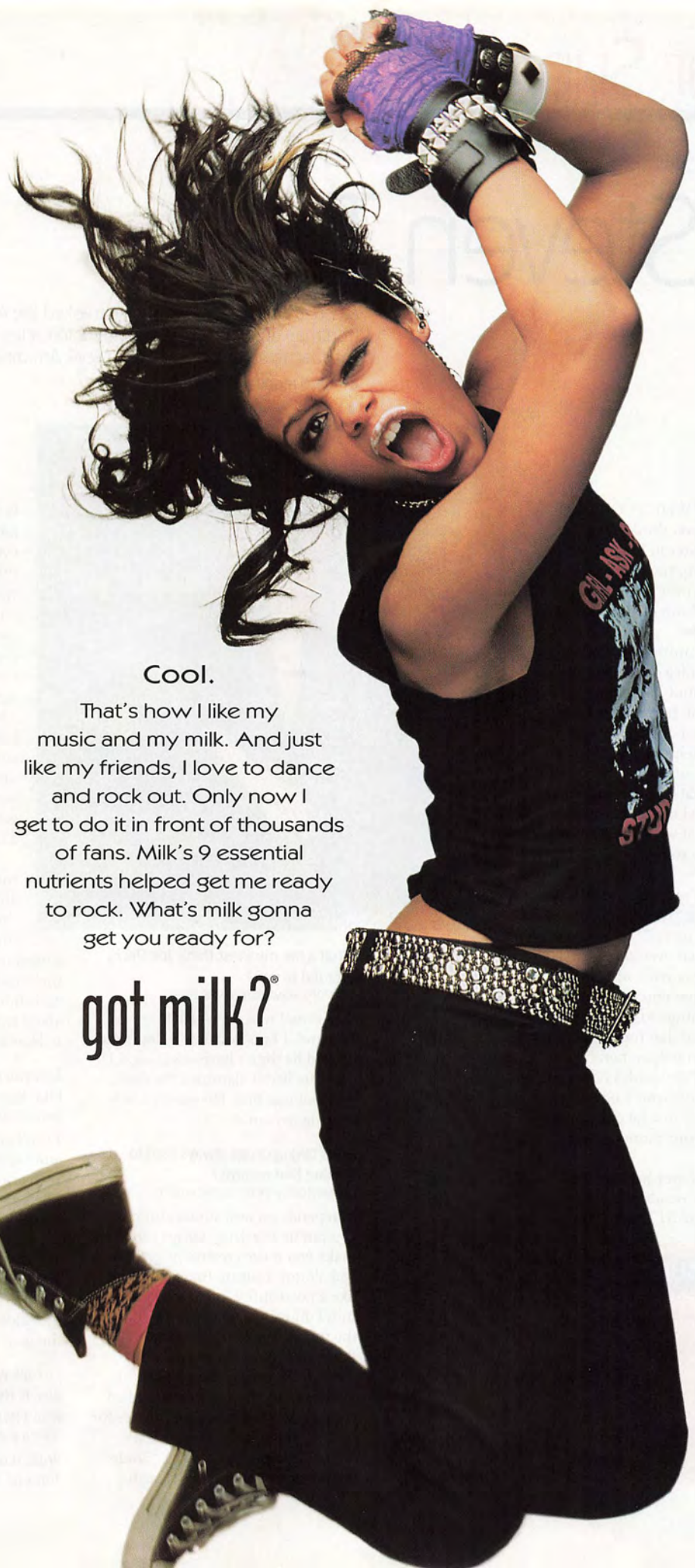
Tim Wildmon, president of the American Family Association,

which spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to the Federal Communications Commission after the Super Bowl,

defended his position. "Sexual lust is a vice that causes harm to us and separates us from a right relationship with God. Justin [Timberlake], Janet and the rappers sing that sexual lust is something to be celebrated," he said. "That's where we are in America today."

Outspoken Fox talk-show host Bill O'Reilly, however, wasn't offended. "I don't care that she's throwing her breasts in my face," he said. "I kind of like that." STEVE KANDELL

"Lust is a vice. Janet says it should be celebrated."



Cool.

That's how I like my music and my milk. And just like my friends, I love to dance and rock out. Only now I get to do it in front of thousands of fans. Milk's 9 essential nutrients helped get me ready to rock. What's milk gonna get you ready for?

got milk?<sup>®</sup>

YOU SEND QUESTIONS, WE GET ANSWERS. WHO LOVES YA, BABY?

## Steven Tyler

→ *Blender* wasn't surprised that you asked the Aerosmith frontman about drugs, guns and motorcycles. But is he also the man to go to for financial advice? Amazingly, yes!

BY ADAM HIGGINBOTHAM



"WHICH ONE DO you think?" asks Steven Tyler, holding up two versions of the cover art for Aerosmith's new album of blues covers, *Honkin' on Bobo*.

The first features a lipstick-stained harmonica on a tasteful red velvet background. The other has exactly the same harmonica, only this time stuffed down the front of a lithe model's denim cutoffs.

*Hmm. The second one?*

"That's what I said," mutters the concertina-faced singer before admitting that it won't, in fact, be the one sent to stores.

*Why not?*

"Because I'm in a band with four other guys," he says. "And I ain't sayin' no more."

It seems that even though Tyler's infamous years of feuding with guitarist Joe Perry may be long behind him, things in Aerosmith haven't changed that much. Taking a brief pause in preparations for yet another tour, Tyler settles down in a back room at the band's Boston offices, sucking on a fat cigar and cackling over your more intrusive inquiries.

"Did drugs ever help me out?" he exclaims incredulously at one point. "Pos-i-tive-ly! There you go!"



Steven Tyler: "I think I'm going to need a bigger chair."

Is it true that you once lost part of your foot in a motorcycle accident?

*MYNICOTINE, DALLAS*

No. I lost part of my Achilles tendon in my left heel. Any more and I would have been crippled. I guess I had a good surgeon. It was summertime 1979. I was on a trail bike, and I went and picked up a friend from a bar. We both copped some blow, and we were both drunk out of our gourds. We went around a corner too fast, went off the road and then hit a tree.

We were going about 30 miles per hour, so I tried to shift down — and my foot hit the road. I had moccasins on, the whole summer vibe. It

ripped my heel off — when I stood up to walk around, I was slipping and sliding on the dirt. It took them about two hours with saline solution to blow all the sand and dirt out.

Can you really fit into your daughters' blue jeans?

*DIETCOKEO, SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA*

I can't anymore — Liv's moved out and Mia's married now. I've got a 14-year-old daughter named Chelsea. She's so skinny, really skinny — even I can't get into hers. Is there anything I can't eat? Yes — I love to eat. If I ate the way I wanted to eat, you know, I'd be eating constantly, 24/7. I'd get so huge I'd be playing the fiddle onstage. But we stay on the road so much, that keeps me fit.

I'm always hearing Aerosmith songs in ads. Is there any product you guys won't help sell?

*PERKYTOE, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA*

Well, it depends on the money, don't it? Now we're waiting for a →

What's the meanest thing Joe Perry ever did to you?

*LOLLIPOP3, HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK*

One time I was dope-sick in England. I knocked on his door, and he said he didn't have any — and I knew he had. I slammed the door, and that was that. He wasn't a very sharing person.

Does taking drugs always lead to making bad records?

*LAURARV, DENNISPORT, MASSACHUSETTS*

It depends on how much emphasis you put on the drug. Drugs can make you more creative or give you a bad album. I mean, there's nothing like a good stiff wind to take your mind off things, or to get you into the mood, but when you rely on them and you take them daily, it steals from your creativity. I think sobriety made Aerosmith make bad records: We had just gotten sober for [1985's] *Done With Mirrors*, and nobody had the balls to say, "Dude, that song ain't finished!" [Laughs]

### DEAR SUPERSTAR

Got a question you're desperate to ask a superstar? Let *Blender* be your intermediary. Send your questions to us, and we'll put the smartest to the world's greatest music stars. Neat, huh?

Just check out *blender.com* for upcoming interviews. Then be sure to put your name and contact information on your question. Good luck!

*Mail: Dear Superstar, Blender, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York, New York 10018*  
*E-mail: superstar@blender.com*



“I think *sobriety* made Aerosmith make bad records!”

condom ad — there's enough songs. In the early days, you sold out if you did that kind of thing. Today, if you're not hip-hop or pop, the only way to get played anywhere is on TV.

Sometimes you've got to sell yourself, like "Sweet Emotion" and "Dream On" to the NFL. Today, what wouldn't I sell? Marlboro in Japan — a smoking ad. Even though I smoke cigars. It's like being on a bottle of gin. Why advocate something that damn near killed me? It took me down. So why be a part of it?

**Did you propose a toast at Liv's wedding? What did you say?**

JOJOBEAR, TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Yes — the usual fodder: "May you have a long and prosperous life." The only thing a father can really ask for is that the husband really loves his daughter. All the rest is just shits and giggles.

I didn't give them advice — as they were growing up I gave them plenty. But when it comes time for a woman to pick a man, she's gonna do what she wants to anyway. What am I gonna do — say, "Don't marry a musician"? I gave them plenty of warning about that. I said, "Remember who you came from."

**Do you have a favorite double entendre from a blues lyric?**

APODACA, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

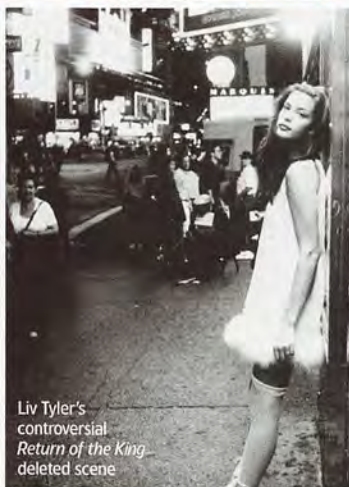
"The buzz you be getting from the crack don't last/I'd rather be OD'ing on the crack of her ass!" [from Aerosmith's "Fever," 1992]. It's a good thing to be a songwriter and the chief lyricist in Aerosmith, because I get to have the last word. The best time to write is the morning — you wake up and stumble for your coffee, and before you get your faculties about you, you just start writing. You come up with the most genius stream of consciousness.



"Who stole my fuzzy dice?"



No llamas were hurt in the making of this article. Except this one.



Liv Tyler's controversial *Return of the King* deleted scene



With ex-wife Cyndi Lauper



Tyler and Perry: "OK, next vacation we'll go to Jamaica."

**Did you hit on Britney Spears at the 2001 Super Bowl?**

DAVEDANIELS, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

Everybody hits on her when they see her — she's such a cutie-pie. No, I didn't hit on her. But I did tell her that I wanted to trade shirts with her, and she did. Remember the shirt that she wore? We traded. She sent it to me. I wish I could just tell you that she gave me the shirt off her back, but she was a little bit younger than she is today. Everyone loves to take the piss out of her, but she brings joy to a lot of people. And she's got a nice ass.

**What's the secret of a happy marriage?**

OZZYFANI, HONOLULU

Keeping your mouth shut and your checkbook open. [Laughs]

**"Britney Spears brings joy to a lot of people."**

**Was there ever really a "next-door neighbor with a daughter/Who had a favor"?**

PUNKPAL, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

No — that's why I wrote that. "Walk This Way" was all wishful thinking. For all the houses I moved into with my family where there was never that girl next door that you read about. As a teenage boy, I always wished that some beautiful girl would just rape me: "Please, darling! Have your way with me, please!"

**I read that you used to steal food when Aerosmith were first starting out and living in a house together in Boston. What's the largest item you ever boosted?**

CRAPMASTER, DAYTON, OHIO

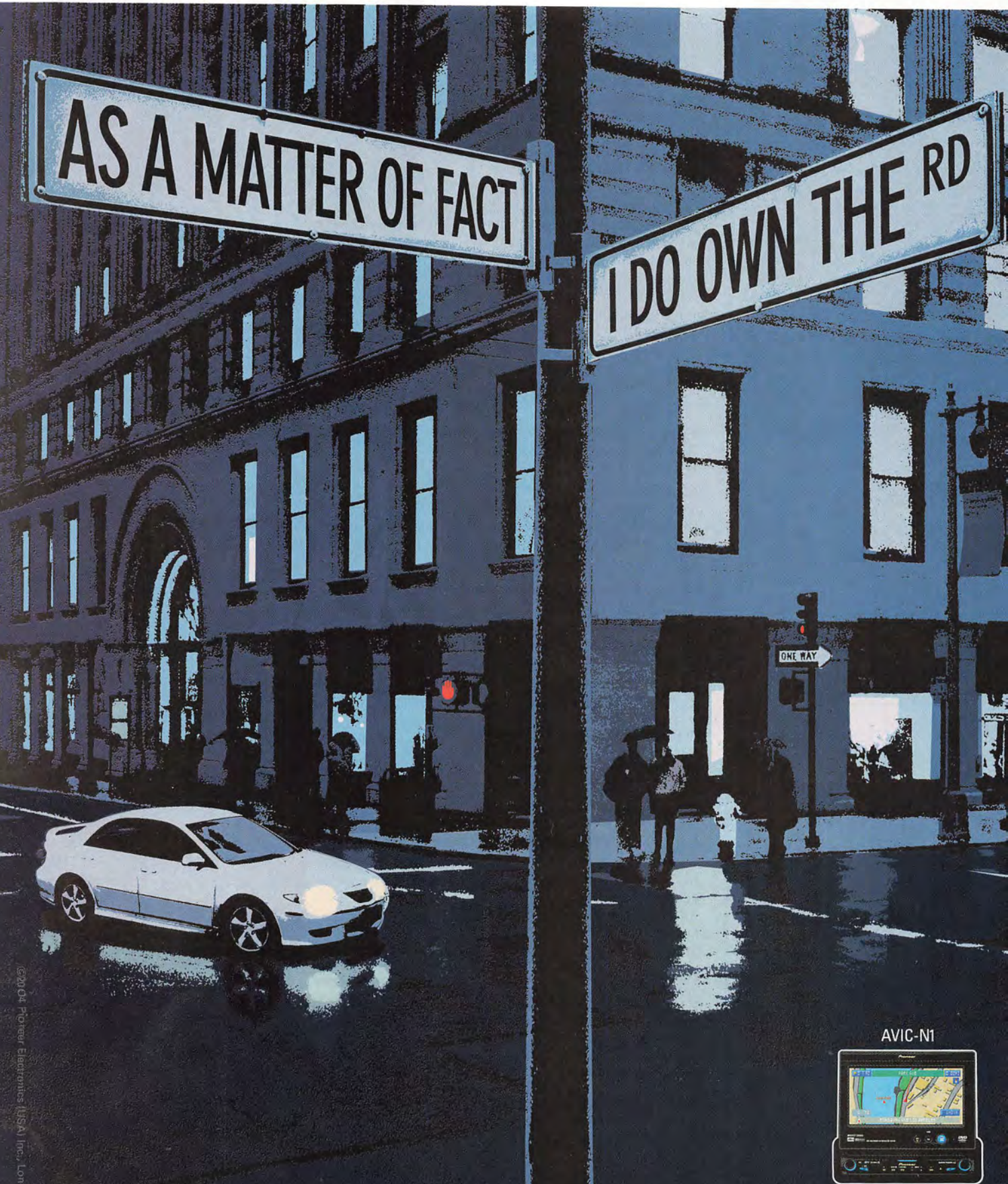
The largest? Nothing too big. We had no food and no money. Joe and I would go to the store. He'd create a commotion over there, and then I would take a slab of roast beef or something and stick it in my pants. It kept us going.

**If you could relive one night from the past, which one would it be?**

WILLIAMD, SAUGERTIES, NEW YORK

Hmm. [Thinks for a full half-minute] To relive? Listening to "Don't Want to Miss a Thing" for the first time with all the strings on it. I'd just climbed to the top of Pikes Peak with Joe Perry, a guide and a llama. We were up high.

I deliberately waited — I got [the song] that morning, and I went off by myself, put the headphones on and just couldn't believe how good it was. It was one of those moments — I was sitting on a cliff, right on the edge, the sun came out and it was beautiful. All these eagles were soaring around. →



AVIC-N1



Memory Navigation DVD Player CD/MP3 Player Vehicle Dynamics Touch Panel

[pioneer-car.com](http://pioneer-car.com)

What would happen to you now if you drank one beer?

RUTHROSENSTOCK, MEDFORD, NEW YORK

I'd probably stay here and talk to you for the rest of the day, and my career would go down the shitter. I think where I was in the olden days, and I get so embarrassed about how far I went. I got so stoned that I just didn't give a shit.

It's so foreign for me now, 18 years later. It doesn't sound bad to me to get a bottle of wine and some cheese and some good mushrooms and go up to the top of Mt. Tamalpais. But would that be good for me? I've gotta do the movie *Be Cool* with John Travolta the day after tomorrow. I might not show up on the set [laughs]. I've been there. I've experienced zero gravity — and it was fun. But I don't want anybody to get the opinion that it was very good to do and it's OK to do, because so many of my friends died.

When your manager was giving you \$20 a day to live on, how did you spend it?

ALANBERS, NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Bag of dope. There was a nice good bag of dope for \$20: heroin. Ninth Avenue heroin, bubblegum and condoms. What did I eat? I didn't. How many drug addicts do you know who eat?

What's the worst thing an ex-girlfriend has ever said about you?

POLLYONCRACK, HOUSTON

"I'm leaving you for another man." [Laughs] I'm trying to think of what the last thing [ex-wife] Cyrinda [Foxe] said to me. She said I was a gigolo.

I recently inherited \$10,000 from my grandmother. Can you recommend an investment strategy?

WHITEOUT, ATLANTA

Pork-jowl futures: meat by-products. Either that or pharmaceuticals, a good pharmaceutical company. Just look at the stock market: tons of cow udders and lips and fuckin' wheat, soy by-products. Futures. If you've got \$100,000 lying around, put it on that. I don't really follow the markets, but I have some people who look at it. They're very conservative with it, and they just spread it out. You want to have something for when you can say, "Fuck this — I'm moving to Maui."

What's your favorite firearm?

BELLESTAR, SUNRISE, FLORIDA

To carry or to collect? My favorite firearm to carry would be my Glock Model 21. My favorite to collect is a Minimi SAW. I love guns and knives. I've got knives all the time. [Produces an



With Britney Spears at Super Bowl XXXV, 2001



Wearing pajamas (we hope) in the late '70s

evil-looking knife from under the table] It's a very boy thing. See the button? [Makes Blender press the button, causing the blade to flick out] Isn't it fun? That's three inches long. I open my fan mail with it. It just gives you something to diddle with besides yourself, you know what I'm saying, darling?

Come birthdays, I'll buy Joe a gun or a knife or a cellphone that talks and jerks you off. What else are you going to do with your money? I used to spend it on drugs, but now I buy parachutes — or I'll get him a biplane or something. I don't carry a gun. But if somebody came in here and started shooting you, I would shoot him back. You can put in your magazine that Aerosmith are heavily armed. [BLENDER]



Glock around the clock

"I love to collect guns and knives. It's a very boy thing."



With (from left) wife Teresa and daughters Liv and Mia

# SHORTEN LIFE'S TO-DO LIST.



THE ALL-NEW SPORTSTER®  
STARTS AT \$6,495\*

IT'S TIME TO RIDE.



Find your dealer at 1-800-443-2153  
or [www.harley-davidson.com](http://www.harley-davidson.com)

\*\$6,495 is the 49-state Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price for the XL 883 Sportster® 883, excluding tax, title and registration fees, destination charges and dealer prep (if any). The XL 1200C Sportster® 1200 Custom shown here has a higher MSRP. Dealer prices may vary. © 2004 H-D





You come into the world with nothing.  
You leave the world with nothing.  
While you're here, you should have something really cool.

*It's time to ride.*

There is no greater possession than life on your own terms. It's closer than you think at a dealer near you. Call 1-800-443-2153 or visit [www.harley-davidson.com](http://www.harley-davidson.com).



We care about you. Please ride safely and within the limits of the law and your abilities. Ride with your headlamp on and watch out for the other person. Always wear a helmet, proper eyewear, and protective clothing and insist your passenger does too. Never ride while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Know your Harley® and read and understand your owner's manual from cover to cover. Protect your privilege to ride by joining the American Motorcyclist Association. ©2003 H-D.



BLENDER EXPLORES THE FINEST TUNES IN HISTORY

# Hypnotize

When he heard a DJ play "Hypnotize" eight times in a row, **the Notorious B.I.G.** knew he had a hit. But — gunned down hours later — he never knew it would make him a superstar



**BROOKLYN** said goodbye to Christopher Wallace, the Notorious B.I.G., on March 18, 1997. Nine days after the East Coast's rap kingpin was shot dead in Los Angeles, a motorcade took his body on a final tour of his old Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood. Around 2 P.M., the 20-car procession crawled up Fulton Street, where thousands of fans thronged to pay their respects.

Shortly after the hearse had passed through, a speaker outside the Underground nightclub began pumping out Wallace's last single, a song called "Hypnotize," and the crowd started dancing, some of them on top of cars.

Panicked, New York police stormed in with pepper spray, and within minutes the whole street was engulfed in chaos. But still the rapper's music kept booming out over the melee: "Biggie, Biggie, can't you see? Sometimes your words just hypnotize me. . . ."

During the last weeks of Biggie's life, "Hypnotize" was everywhere. As the lead single from the year's most hotly anticipated rap release, it was getting massive radio airplay. It was a

## VITAL STATISTICS

**SONG**  
"Hypnotize"

**ARTIST**  
The Notorious B.I.G.

**LABEL**  
Bad Boy

**PERFORMERS**  
The Notorious B.I.G.  
*vocals*

Pam Long  
*vocals*

**WRITERS**  
The Notorious B.I.G., Sean "Puffy" Combs, Deric "D-Dot" Angelettie, Ron "Amen-Ra" Lawrence

**PRODUCERS**  
Sean "Puffy" Combs, Deric "D-Dot" Angelettie, Ron "Amen-Ra" Lawrence

**CHART DEBUT**  
April 26, 1997

**HIGHEST CHART POSITION**  
1

statement of intent, reaffirming Biggie's status as the "king of New York" and putting Sean "Puffy" Combs's Bad Boy label on the map once and for all. "That was our coming-of-age record," says producer Deric "D-Dot" Angelettie. "That was us saying our franchise player, our Michael Jordan, is here, and you other guys gotta top this."

Combs was a man who left nothing to chance, and the success of "Hypnotize" was no accident. One year earlier, Combs had decamped to Trinidad's Caribbean Sound Basin with his production squad, the Hitmen, to make tracks for his own solo debut and Biggie's sophomore effort, *Life After Death*. The Hitmen would work in shifts, some recording through the day and others staying up until dawn. They competed to see who could lay down the most tracks, and by the time they left Trinidad, they had around 200.

Angelettie had an added incentive: He grew up in the same part of Brooklyn as Biggie. "We're both from the same 'hood, and my goal was to give him that king-of-Brooklyn status with that track," Angelettie says. For years, he had wanted to base a track around the breakbeat from "Rise," a record by jazz trumpeter Herb Alpert that had long been popular at Brooklyn block parties.

In Trinidad, along with his production partner Ron "Amen-Ra" Lawrence, he began turning the "Rise" break into "Hypnotize." When he got back and played it for Biggie, the rapper responded with what would become the last line of the first verse: "That Brooklyn bullshit, we on it."

Biggie had a lot to prove with *Life After Death*. His reputation as New York's finest was under threat

from up-and-coming Brooklynite Jay-Z. He was also recovering from a car accident that shattered his thighbone and briefly confined him to a wheelchair. Forced to slow down and reflect, he was hungry to make more music.

One day, Angelettie got a call from Combs's Manhattan studio, Daddy's House, to say that Biggie had turned up. When Angelettie arrived, he saw Biggie sitting down and nodding to the "Hypnotize" beat. "He pulled me to the side, leaned over to me and didn't say anything," Angelettie says. "He just whispered in my ear the hook: 'Biggie, Biggie, can't you see? Sometimes your words just hypnotize me.' I flipped out."



With the hook, adapted from Slick Rick's "La Di Da Di," in place, all "Hypnotize" needed was the verses. Biggie's technique was unorthodox; unlike most rappers, he didn't write lyrics down. "Most artists, you can tell they're working by the movement of their pen," Angelettie explains, "but Big didn't have a pen and paper, so if a person walked in, they'd think there wasn't any work being done. There'd be conversations going on, the music would be blaring, there'd be smoke in the air, drinks all over the place, girls running around. You would think that a party was going on, but meanwhile Big was sitting in his little corner just nodding."

After a week of this, Biggie came in one morning and said he was ready. As Puffy and Biggie's crew watched approvingly, he nailed the whole song in just two takes. Later, Pam Long, from R&B group Total, came in to sing the hook, and the Daddy's House team added the final production touches.

In February, Biggie and Combs flew out to California to film the →

## WHO'S WHO



**THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G.**

Influential Brooklyn rapper Christopher Wallace. Was shot dead on March 9, 1997, at age 24.



**SEAN "PUFFY" COMBS**

Rapper and producer; owner of Bad Boy Records. The most high-profile rap impresario of the 1990s.



**DERIC "D-DOT" ANGELETTIE**

Member of Combs's Hitmen squad of producers and songwriters. Now runs the record label Crazy Cat.

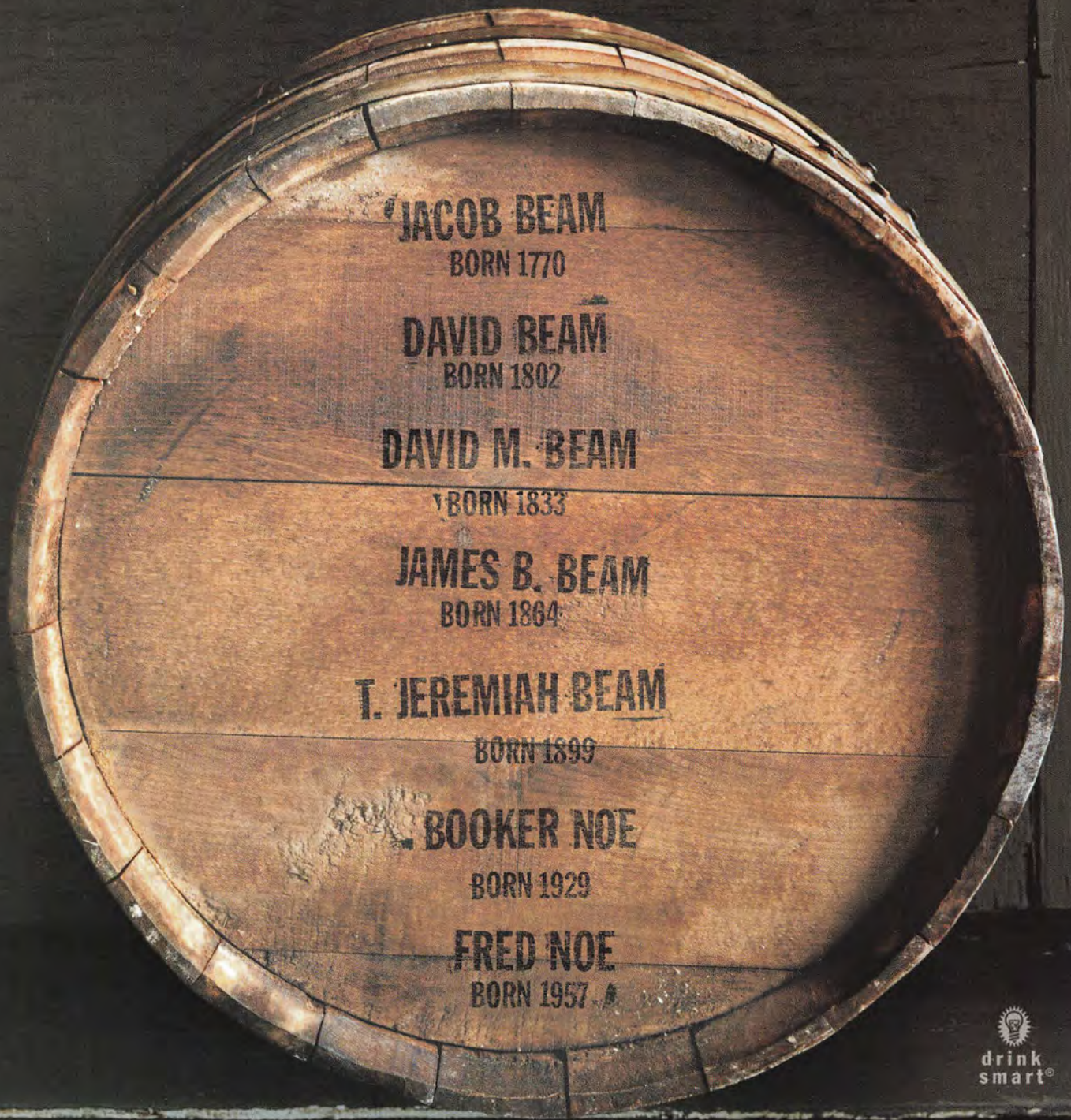


# THE STUFF INSIDE MATTERS MOST.™

Go ahead, peel that label off. What really matters is the stuff inside. That's why we've stayed true to our original recipe for 209 years. When you're that dedicated to what you put into something, people can trust what comes out of it.



**WE'VE BEEN LEAVING OUR MARK ON BOURBON  
FOR 7 GENERATIONS.**



From Jacob Beam founding his distillery in 1795, to Jim Beam restarting the family business after prohibition, making the world's finest bourbon has always been a family tradition around here. And now Fred Noe, Jim Beam's great-grandson, would like to share the Beam story with you. Visit [jimbeam.com](http://jimbeam.com) for an inside look at how we've been making bourbon for 7 generations and counting.





Biggie and Puffy embark on an ill-advised "trust fall" exercise.

**"For a big guy, he could really dance."**

PRODUCER DERIC "D-DOT" ANGELETTIE

"Hypnotize" video with characteristic Bad Boy restraint. Among the props in the \$700,000 extravaganza were speedboats, motorcycles, helicopters and a live panther. Angelettie has fond memories of the video: "For a big guy, he could really dance, but because his leg was still messed up he had to stay in one spot. But he was smiling, because he was happy to be stepped up. It was like, 'I'm free to really kill this game.'"

"Hypnotize" was an instant smash, Bad Boy's biggest hit yet. The night Biggie died, he went to a party in Los Angeles sponsored by *Vibe* magazine, and he heard the DJ play "Hypnotize" eight times in a row. Six weeks after his death, it entered the *Billboard* Hot 100 singles chart at number 2 and was certified platinum. "Big did a lot of records with a lot of people, but that record was more of a statement of where he came from and how high the bar was going to be raised for the rest of the rappers," Angelettie says.

With its combination of hard-hitting underground credibility and airwave-hogging commercial clout, "Hypnotize" still influences countless rappers, including Jay-Z and Bubba Sparxxx. It's also inextricably linked with the premature death of the man many people claim was the greatest MC of his generation.

"I was 19 when I first heard it," Sparxxx remembers. "My boy Fat Steve had gotten it a week early, and we were on the way to Panama City, Florida, for spring break. I just kept playin' it over and over and over. The track is wicked, the hook is slick and the verses are vintage B.I.G. This song will live forever. It's timeless." *DORIAN LYNSEY*



SOLVING YOUR POP CONUNDRUMS SINCE 2001

**What happened to the Tori Amos and Michael Stipe collaboration "It Might Hurt a Bit," originally intended for the *Don Juan DeMarco* soundtrack? Was it ever released?**

DAVID SCHAPPERT, WAYMART, PENNSYLVANIA

The recording, which was also supposed to feature Flea and Dave Navarro, remains unreleased to this day. The two singers made the song together for the unremarkable Johnny Depp movie in November 1994. But it was left off the soundtrack for being (as Amos told Carson Daly in 1998) "a little too left-of-center for what they wanted."

The track was also slated for the film *Empire Records* (starring Liv Tyler) and *How to Make an American Quilt* (with Winona Ryder), but by 1999, Amos considered the piece dead and appeared to have lost track of the master tapes. "I haven't talked to Michael about it in a while," she said at the time. "It's not something we bring up."

Could it be the R.E.M. frontman just thought the song sucked?

**Is there any truth to the story about one of the members of DeBarge being arrested after some kind of terrorist incident on a plane?**

DANA STEFAN, LANSING, MICHIGAN

Yes, weirdly enough, although Bobby DeBarge had left the family outfit by its mid-'80s Motown heyday, and he was certainly no al Qaeda operative.

Aboard an American Airlines flight in 1986, the fading singer decided it might be funny to loudly shout, "Hi, Jack!" over and over again. Hilarious, right? The airline didn't think so either. After refusing to stop his outburst, DeBarge was detained onboard and taken into custody upon landing.

Luckily for him, no charges were pressed. But the same can't be said about his cocaine trafficking two years later. In 1988, both Bobby and his younger brother Chico (who had a solo career on Motown) received lengthy prison sentences for conspiring to transport a kilo of cocaine from Los Angeles to their base in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Following his release, Bobby died of AIDS in August 1995, just 39 years old. Chico believes his brother contracted the disease in prison.

**Did Van Morrison once release a joke album to get out of a contract?**

TOM LANDON, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Yes. Morrison recorded deliberately dumb material in 1968 to escape the clutches

Bernie Taupin and Elton John share a laugh and a joke.



**Did Bernie Taupin really write the lyrics for "Someone Saved My Life Tonight" after preventing a suicide attempt by Elton John? I thought the song was about when he convinced John not to marry someone.**

RICHARD LEE, VIA E-MAIL

Both versions are basically right. Elton John's 1975 album, *Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy*, tells the story of the writing partners' early career, and "Someone Saved My Life Tonight" tackles the period when the unknown Reginald Dwight found himself betrothed to Linda Woodrow, the six-foot-tall heiress to an English pickle empire.

This pairing clearly wasn't meant to be; Woodrow wanted the future superstar to quit music, apparently even beating him during arguments. One night in 1968, the distraught pianist attempted what he later called a "Woody Allen-style" suicide

by placing his head in the oven (resting on a cushion!), opening the window and turning the gas on low. Luckily, Woodrow and their housemate Taupin came home. While Taupin "saved" John, Woodrow apparently grumbled about wasting gas.

This is Taupin's standard explanation, but John claims the song's "someone" was Long John Baldry (the "sugar bear" in the lyrics), the singer for whom John played keyboards. Three weeks before the wedding, John spent a drunken night crying on Baldry's shoulder about the situation. The openly gay singer could tell the pianist wasn't exactly the marrying kind and persuaded him to break off the engagement. John moved back to his mother's house the next day. "Baldry saved my fucking life in every sense of that phrase," John later said.

of his old label, Bang, following the death of its founder, Bert Berns, the previous year. Berns's widow was willing to free Morrison in return for the publishing rights to an album's worth of new songs,



Must... remain... awake during flute solo...ZZZZ...

so the disgruntled singer handed over a bizarre series of throwaway fragments all about a minute long. On one song, "Ring Worm," he sang, "I can see by the look on your face that you've got ringworm."

Most of the songs are variations on the "Twist and Shout" chord sequence (Berns cowrote the R&B classic) — there's "Shake and Roll" ("Shake and roll, baby"), "Twist and Shake" ("Twist and shake, baby"), "Stomp and Scream" (get the picture?), "Scream and Holler" and "Jump and Thump." "Blow in Your Nose," meanwhile, was a jab at the laughably "psychedelic" title Berns foisted on Morrison's solo debut, *Blowin' Your Mind!*

Upon hearing this original collection, Bang's lawyers decided to let Morrison go. The curios languished in vaults until 1994, when they were collected on a CD called *Payin' Dues*. [BLENDER]

## YOUR QUESTIONS >>

Ask Blender, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York, New York 10018

E-mail: askblender@blender.com

Please include your first and last name, your hometown and your state or province. Cool!

Sieve Double/RetnaUK; Amos: David Jensen/Corbis Outline (Stipe); Dezo Hoffmann/Retna; USA (Taupin and John); Michael Putland/RetnaUK (Morrison)

Watch what happens when Carmen rescues four guys from ugly hair and transforms them into men with missions.

# CARMEN CARE

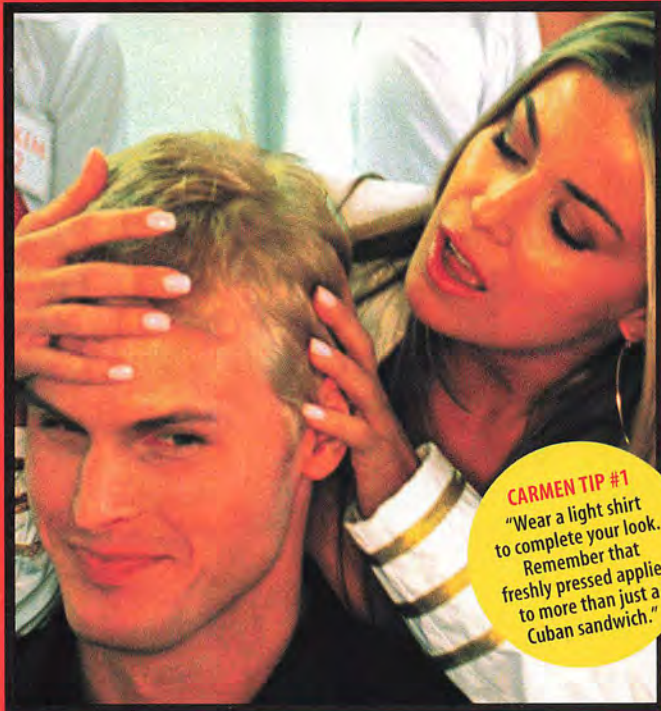
FOR GUYS WITH HAIR

**MAXIM**  
MAGAZINE™  
HAIRCOLOR FROM JUST FOR MEN®



**CASE #1**

**THE THIN MAN**



**CARMEN TIP #1**  
"Wear a light shirt to complete your look. Remember that freshly pressed applies to more than just a Cuban sandwich."

There's still no cure for baldness—our top scientists are apparently busy "curing diseases" or something. So until our best brains get their priorities straight, it's up to you to make the most of what hair you've got left. For starters, go lighter rather than darker: the light color will blend better with your skin tone, making for a less obvious thinning area. Now be brave and cut the comb-over.

**1. CUT**

The sides and back should be cut short to your natural hairline. Tell your barber to leave the top longer with lots of texture to cover your thinning. Think styled but messy on top. Leave extra length at first, then take a look and trim more if you want. Remember: boss your barber.



**2. COLOR**

For the greatest amount of volume and thickness, use the **Maxim Bleaching Kit** for all-over blondness. It's easy: just mix in the color, apply all over your noggin for the full duration (how long depends on your existing hair color), then rinse. You will get a superlight color with lots of added thickness. The lighter color makes you look like you have more hair.



**3. STYLE**

To thicken and camouflage your thinning top, towel dry all the way (use a clean towel). Dab a small amount of thick alcohol-free gel between your palms and warm it up. Run it through your hair from back to front, pulling and lifting the top to the front and side. Repeat after me: "Come here, beautiful lady, and touch me!"



**CASE #2**

**THE FLAT MAN**

For all his movie stardom, Frankenstein never got any play with the ladies. He even had to have a doctor build him a bride. So why are you working a monstrous flat-top and expecting any better results? Carmen says, "Lose that rigidity and add color to those tips. Now flat becomes spiky!" You've never looked so smooth. Or so lifelike.

**1. CUT**

Get the sides and back cut short, leaving as much sideburn as possible. Leave the top and front longer, with some "texture" (that means "shaggy") on the ends. A little spike never hurt. Now pull the top and front straight up. Bonus: you're an inch taller.



**2. COLOR**

To create the spikiest look, use the **Maxim Sandstorm** shade, or for more dramatic spikes, go for the **Maxim Bleaching Kit**. Put on the rubber gloves (they come in the box) and use your fingers to apply color to the ends of your hair. Leave it on for 15 minutes. Now you have some frosty blond tips.



**3. STYLE**

To give your hair the most lift and spikiness—and avoid the flat look—towel-dry, then apply a big dab of super-hold gel through the top and front. Squish the gel into the hair, pulling up and out. No more flat-top—you've got a phat-top now, baby.



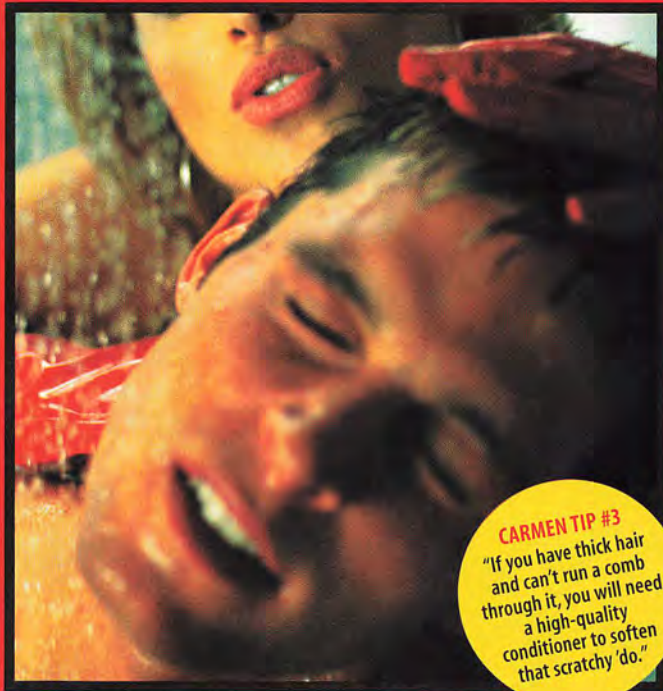
**CARMEN TIP #2**  
"It's not cool to put tons of product in your hair. You never know when a nice lady might want to run her hands through your new locks."





## CASE #3

## THE DREAD MAN



**CARMEN TIP #3**  
"If you have thick hair and can't run a comb through it, you will need a high-quality conditioner to soften that scratchy 'do."

Irie, mon, you know the dreads are cool. It's your friends who think it looks like a wet poodle went to sleep on your head. Time to upgrade the image? Carmen says you can still rock a nature-boy look with a little bit of texture and color. "Use your hair to its full advantage," she advises. "Keep the length and add some highlights." And pass the dutchie to the left-hand side!

## 1. CUT

Dread removal is tricky. For best results, try to keep as much length as possible. Leave the back long, and trim the bangs and sides. From the top, have long, jagged layers cut throughout and you'll utilize parts of your hair that haven't seen daylight since the turn of the century.



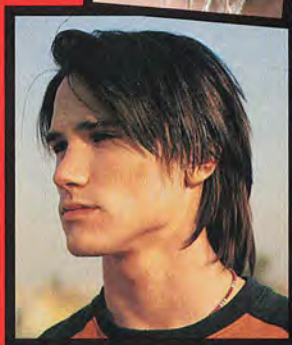
## 2. COLOR

Enhance your natural highlights and add shine by using **Maxim Sandstorm**. Mix it up and, using the included highlighting comb, dip the teeth of the comb into the color. Starting at your scalp, comb the color all the way through to the ends. Repeat, leaving a space between each section, and relax for 15 minutes before rinsing. Now you've got summer highlights and lots of added shine.



## 3. STYLE

For the most natural, relaxed look with some shine, use just a dab of gel. Apply to your palms and massage throughout your new cut. Then shake your head like crazy and let the hair fall into place. Your dreads are now officially dead.



## CASE #4

## THE MESSY MAN

There's laid-back, and there's left back. It's a fine line between the kind of messy mop a girl loves to tousle and the kind of greasy shock that'll have her flipping a charitable quarter into your coffee cup. "Add color to your whole 'do," Carmen says. "Get nice and look bright!" Now that your head is nice and tidy, get to work on that apartment.

## 1. CUT

To get that clean-cut, all-American look, start by getting the sides and back clipped short, leaving longer layers on the top and front. Try a side part and comb back away from your face. Expose your mug rather than hide it. You're beautiful.



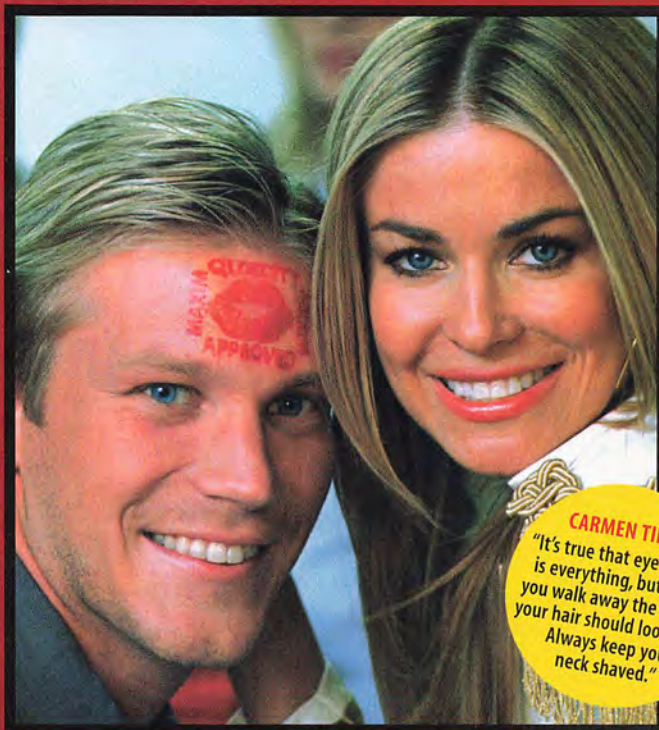
## 2. COLOR

Bring out your natural highlights by brightening your color all over. Use the **Maxim Sandstorm** shade. Mix, apply throughout your entire head, and process for 15 minutes. You've given your messy, rough hair a healthy, tamer look.



## 3. STYLE

To make a manageable and glossy look, towel-dry (remember: clean towel), then rub a dime-size amount of alcohol-free gel between your palms and work it through from back to front. Part your hair on the side with a sharp, defined line and brush away from your face. The wild man has changed to the all-American boy. It's OK, people will compliment you. Get used to saying, "Thank you," or, "Yeah, I know I look good, sucka."



**CARMEN TIP #4**  
"It's true that eye contact is everything, but when you walk away the back of your hair should look neat. Always keep your neck shaved."

Janet to Justin:  
"Well, maybe no  
one noticed...."

THE NAKED  
TRUTH!

# DID JANET DO IT ON

→ Is Eminem a racist? Were the Stones better than the Beatles? *Blender* resolves music's most heated debates with help from Ryan Adams, the RZA, Fountains of Wayne and . . . the Littlest Groom!

BY DORIAN LYSKEY, MICHAEL ODELL,  
MILES STIVESON AND DOUGLAS WOLK

LOVE ME DO!

## WHO WERE BETTER: THE BEATLES OR THE STONES?

★ SINCE THE 1960s, where many music fans stand on the Beatles-vs.-Stones debate has been as crucial to their identity as their DNA. Supporters of the Fab Four point to the fact that they not only pretty much invented modern pop music but, with *Sgt. Pepper's*, also the album as we know it.

Fans of Jagger & Richards, meanwhile, argue that pound for pound, the Stones were simply better musicians — particularly during their *Exile on Main Street*-era, Mick

Taylor-abetted incarnation — and that when it comes to rock & roll, no one can trump, well, the Greatest Rock & Roll Band in the World. Perhaps, as Ryan Adams claims, the only fair result is an honorable draw.

"They sort of a/b each other somehow," the singer says. "George Harrison and Keith might as well be Obi-Wan Kenobi and Darth Vader in a light-saber duel. If you wanted to stop and reverse time, though, get Bob Weir and Jerry Garcia, Greg Ginn, Keith and George in one room.

Then you could explode the galaxy."

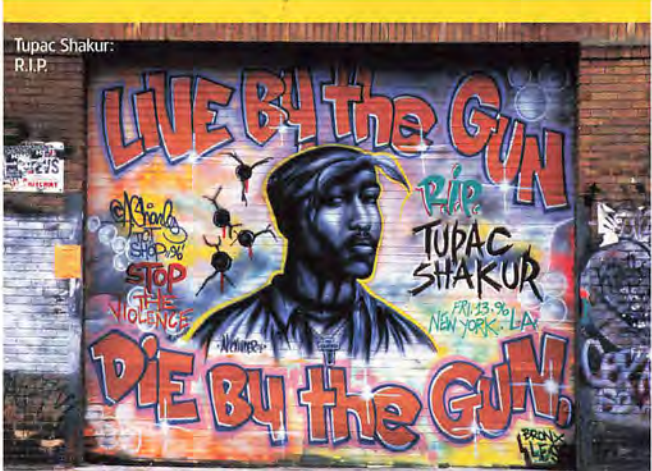
Back on Earth, though, we have to agree with Fountains of Wayne's Adam Schlesinger that on grounds of sheer diversity, the Beatles just, just take it.

"I always felt like the Beatles could 'do' the Stones' thing if they were in the mood, but not the other way around," the singer-songwriter says. "It's sort of like comparing a decathlete to a guy who just throws the javelin."

ANSWER: **THE BEATLES** (BUT 'OB-LA-DI, OB-LA-DA' STILL REALLY SUCKS. SEE PAGE 86)



Keith Richards: "Nice solo, Brian!"



Tupac Shakur: R.I.P.

HIP-HOP WHODUNIT

## WHO KILLED TUPAC?

★ NEITHER THE LAS VEGAS police department nor the FBI has ever charged anyone with firing four fatal shots into Tupac Shakur on September 7, 1996.

Chuck Phillips, a *Los Angeles Times* journalist, believes that the murder was provoked by a scuffle between Shakur's entourage and Crips gang members, including a man named Orlando Anderson. Phillips also claims that Shakur's rival, the Notorious B.I.G., offered the Crips \$1 million, plus his gun, to do it. "The Crips went to Biggie and said, 'All right, you want us to do it, we'll do it,'" Phillips says.

A different theory is put forward by former Los Angeles police detective Russell Poole and examined in both Randall Sullivan's book *Labyrinth* and

director Nick Broomfield's documentary *Biggie and Tupac*. Poole believes Anderson killed Shakur on the orders of Death Row Records boss Suge Knight in order to prevent him from leaving the label.

"I consider Phillips's theory to be a complete joke," Sullivan says. "The notion that [Biggie] could get in and out of a Vegas hotel unobserved by anyone is preposterous."

The only thing both men agree on is that the trigger man was Orlando Anderson. But don't hold out too long waiting for his arrest. In May 1998, Anderson was shot dead at a Los Angeles car wash.

ANSWER: **ORLANDO ANDERSON** (ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT HE'S REALLY DEAD)

# PURPOSE? ROCK'S EIGHT GREATEST BARROOM ARGUMENTS: SETTLED! >>>>>

HOOTERGATE!

## DID JANET JACKSON WILLFULLY EXPOSE HER NIPPLE?

★ JANET'S SORRY. Justin's sorry. MTV is sorry. CBS is sorry. *Everyone* is sorry. But was the appearance of Ms. Jackson's naked breast at this year's Super Bowl halftime show a genuine "wardrobe malfunction" that resulted from a "collapsed" bra, as the singer claimed, or a publicity stunt that backfired?

"It was completely staged,"

alleges Scott Free, a clothing stylist who has worked with Jessica Simpson and Outkast, among others. Jackson did have a new album to publicize — her first in three years — and in the immediate aftermath of the Super Bowl, some industry insiders praised what they assumed was a deliberate attempt at headline-grabbing.

"It was extremely successful," said James LaForce, partner in the New York public-relations agency LaForce & Stevens.

"We love stunts, and she raised the bar for all of us."

Even Jackson's subsequent apology merely provides more evidence that her flash was deliberate, according to Mo Rocca, Senior Naked Boobie Correspondent for Comedy Central's *Daily Show*.

"If you watch her apology, she's

very sly," Rocca notes. "It's open to interpretation. It's like the Gospels!"

But Free thinks there's at least one upside to the whole affair. "The powers that be are really going to appreciate what wardrobe stylists do for a living now," he

says, laughing. "They can pay us more money so these 'wardrobe malfunctions' don't happen."

ANSWER: **YES** (AND ONLY A COMPLETE BOOB WOULD BELIEVE OTHERWISE)

"It was completely staged," alleges one stylist.

THE RUM CAPITAL  
OF THE WORLD  
IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.



It's in your glass  
whenever you pour a Puerto Rican rum.  
For over 450 years, the world has turned  
to Puerto Rico for the finest rums.

SINCE 1548  
**RUMS** of  
PUERTO RICO  
RUM CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

(The Captain Morgan logo is a trademark of the Captain Morgan Rum Co.)  
©2004 Rums of Puerto Rico/Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company. All rights reserved.

★ ROCK'S GREATEST ARGUMENTS

THE REAL SLIM SHADY

IS EMINEM  
A RACIST?

★ TAPES OF MUSIC STARS' substandard early material are always embarrassing. But the Eminem tracks unearthed last year by *The Source* magazine didn't feature him cranking out some off-key karaoke version of "You Give Love a Bad Name." More seriously, they found the world's biggest rapper engaging in racial slurs.

"Blacks and whites, they sometimes mix/But black girls only want your money, 'cause they dumb chicks," raps a young Marshall Mathers on a 1988 freestyle unearthed by *Source* owners Ray Benzino and Dave Mays. On another tape, allegedly recorded in 1993, Eminem claims, "I don't like that nigger shit."

"There is a huge double standard when it comes to mainstream media holding white people accountable for their actions," says Richard "Crazy Legs" Colon, of the legendary breakdance group Rock Steady Crew. "If this would have been someone of color, careers would have been lost by now."

Eminem maintains that both tapes date back to the late '80s, when he had just broken up with his African-American girlfriend. "If [I was] a fuckin' racist, I sure as fuck wouldn't

**"He was a poorly behaved 15-year-old," says his biographer.**



Eminem: Always willing to hear criticism

be rapping," Eminem declared in January. "I would have been fuckin' singing death metal!"

Eminem has also shown few qualms about working with black artists and producers, such as Dr. Dre, 50 Cent and Snoop Dogg, all of whom, in turn, would be extremely unlikely to collaborate with anyone

they suspected of even the slightest anti-black sentiment.

"He was a poorly behaved 15-year-old saying things that he knew weren't right because he was mad," says Anthony Bozza, author of *Whatever You Say I Am: The Life and Times of Eminem*. "I just think it has to be taken in context."

**ANSWER: NO** (BUT HE WAS A VERY, VERY NAUGHTY YOUNG MAN)

PLEASE RELEASE ME

WILL GUNS N' ROSES' CHINESE DEMOCRACY EVER COME OUT?

★ GUNS N' ROSES HAVE been working on their new CD for so long that it increasingly seems possible *actual* Chinese democracy may become a reality before we ever get to hear the album of the same name.

Eric Romano, who runs the fan site mygnr.com, claims that "My hopes are up for a 2004 release." But his hopes were probably also up back in 1999, the year Axl Rose promised that a new album, the band's first since 1991's *Use Your Illusion* sets, would soon be delivered.

Alas, by that October, all the group had managed to come up with was an album title. Five years later, in the plus column, we know



Axl drinks to forget... his haircut.

there's a substantial amount of more-or-less completed songs, including "Rhiad and the Bedouins," "Madagascar" and "The Blues," all of which GN'R

have performed at their sporadic live concerts. And Rose himself has no doubts about the record eventually seeing the light of day. "I would not say that *soon* is the word," he told MTV in 2002. "But [the album] will come out."

Finally, the only precedent for a record by a band of GN'R's stature not being released is the Beach Boys' *Smile*, and most of that is now available in one form or another. "Chinese Democracy will be released," former GN'R guitarist Gilby Clarke informs *Blender*. "Then we can see why the hell Axl broke up one of the best rock bands."

**ANSWER: YES** (JUST DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH)

© 2004 Captain Morgan Rum Co., Baltimore, MD - Pure Rican Rum with Spice and Other Natural Flavors - 35% Alc. by Vol. (70 proof). Get a Little Captain in You!™ is a trademark of Captain Morgan Rum Co. (Bottle costume used with permission of Peapod.)



**GOT A LITTLE CAPTAIN IN YOU?**



Drink Responsibly - Captain's Orders! • Visit [captainmorgan.com](http://captainmorgan.com)

KEEP THE DAY JOB!

## CAN ROCK STARS ACT?

★ FOR DECADES, rock stars have opened themselves up to ridicule by appearing in movies. And ridicule is exactly what they've deserved.

After witnessing Sting's performance in the 1984 sci-fi megaflop *Dune*, for example, one reviewer said he deserved to be "run out of the Police on a rail." Another, dismissing Mariah Carey's performance in the equally turkey-ish *Glitter*, noted that "when she tries for an emotion — any emotion — she looks like she's lost her car keys."

"Rock stars are used to being literally center stage," says film critic Richard Roeper. "In film acting, you have to tone it way down." Today's hip-hop performers, such as Ice Cube and DMX, however, have raised standards, as has the Wu-Tang Clan's RZA, who stars in Jim Jarmusch's new movie, *Coffee and Cigarettes*. RZA claims the key to a convincing performance is "you've got to let go of your ego. I've already come up with 10 different aliases, and each one is a personality."

Interestingly, however, the handful of rock-star performances that could genuinely be called "good" — such as David Bowie's in *The Man Who Fell to Earth* or Courtney Love's



Incontinence holds no fears for Sting.



*Glitter*: "So, Mariah, what about a sequel?"

in *The People vs. Larry Flynt* — found the stars playing characters not so different from themselves. In other words, cast Eminem as a flamboyant hairdresser, and you'll probably be out of luck. But get him to play an aspiring white rapper from Detroit, and Mr. Shady might not find it too much of a stretch.

ANSWER: **YES** (WHEN PLAYING THEMSELVES)



"No, Nick, I don't know what an 'annulment' is."

REALITY BITES

## WILL JESSICA SIMPSON AND NICK LACHEY'S MARRIAGE LAST?

★ HOW LONG BEFORE MTV's *The Newlyweds* has to be renamed *The Recently Divorced*? Not long, if you believe tabloid rumors about Nick Lachey's growing jealousy over wife Jessica Simpson's higher media profile and greater album sales. But any "Sorry to Hear You've Called the Lawyers" Hallmark cards just yet.

"These two seem to have passion," says *Loveline*'s Dr. Drew Pinsky. "Passion is a source of amazing renewal and sustenance for a relationship."

That passion will become increasingly tested as the pair, who are currently shopping around a marital-advice book, continue to live in the goldfish bowl of reality TV. "Even though you might have one-on-one time, it's never really one-

on-one," says Glen Foster, the star of Fox's *The Littlest Groom*. "The camera will definitely block intimate moments from happening."

But Pinsky argues that the couple's biggest challenge not related to identifying tuna will be to cope with the periods of separation caused by their hectic schedules. "For relationships to be healthy, they need a lot of

nurture," he explains. "Without the nurture, the relationship doesn't grow; it falls apart." Pinsky's prediction? "It will last eight to 10 years." Given the less-than-stellar track record of previous marriages between music stars, it is a verdict *Blender* regretfully endorses.

ANSWER: **NO** (BUT WE'RE PULLING FOR 'EM)

**"It will last eight to 10 years," says Dr. Drew Pinsky.**

ACID TEST

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO ENJOY THE GRATEFUL DEAD WITHOUT DRUGS?

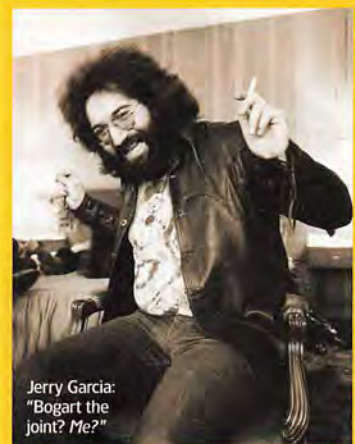
★ GIVEN THAT THE Grateful Dead's jam-heavy, four-hour live shows featured not just a lengthy two-kit drum solo but, on occasion, a miked-up frying pan, it's unsurprising that many fans sought to chemically alter their consciousness.

Drug ingestion at their early "acid test" performances was near compulsory, while the band's 1970 New Year's Eve show featured balloons filled with doses of "Orange Sunshine" LSD.

"I'll admit that I was dosed for my first show, which certainly helped me get it," says David Gans, host of radio's *Grateful Dead Hour*. But not all of the Dead's output is as resistant to sober enjoyment as, say, their *Europe '72* triple live set. *American Beauty* (from 1970) in particular is a decidedly non-psychedelic collection of concise country-rock. "These are great American songs," Gans says.

Then there are the Wharf

Rats, an organization of clean-and-sober Deadheads (sample bumper sticker: ONE SHOW AT A TIME!). But the most convincing argument that it's possible to enjoy the Dead straight comes from their celebrity fan base, whose membership includes the decidedly non-druggy likes of revered broadcaster Walter Cronkite, Tipper Gore and Bill Clinton. Actually, maybe that last one isn't such a good example. . . . [BLENDER]



Jerry Garcia: "Bogart the joint? Me?"

ANSWER: **YES** (IF YOU, LIKE, REALLY HAVE TO, MAAAN. . . .)

PlayStation 2

# JET LI RISE TO HONOR 義氣



For Kit Yun, the  
only way out of the  
Hong Kong underworld  
is to go back in.

A dying man's last wish. An undercover cop who's running out of time. Jet Li is Kit Yun in Rise to Honor, the story of a cop sworn to fulfill his duty, yet bound by a promise to a powerful crime lord. Now Kit must enter a shadowy world where, to preserve his honor, he'll have to risk his life. But as his enemies will soon learn, sometimes the one who is most honorable...is also the most deadly.



Violence

[www.us.playstation.com](http://www.us.playstation.com) "Rise to Honor" is a trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. ©2004 Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. "PlayStation" and the "PS" Family Logo are registered trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. "Live In Your World. Play In Ours." is a trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.



LIVE IN YOUR WORLD.  
PLAY IN OURS.



8:55 P.M.

The Vines, from left: Hamish Rosser, Patrick Matthews, Craig Nicholls, Ryan Griffiths

Ahoy there, landlubbers!

Make him stop.

# "We Need More Money!"

→ Is \$848 enough cash to go eating, drinking, shopping and bowling with Aussie rockers **the Vines**? Apparently not

BY CLARK COLLIS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW SALACUSE



"WHO TOLD YOU we wanted to go to an ice hockey game?" asks Craig Nicholls, frontman for the Vines, standing in the foyer of his Manhattan hotel. "We are *definitely* not going to an ice hockey game."

This announcement comes as a blow to *Blender*, who had been informed by the Australian quartet's "people" that the band most definitely *did* want to spend part of the \$848 we've given them to attend a sporting event. We even purchased tickets for tonight's Madison Square Garden showdown between the New York Rangers and the Vancouver Canucks, plus four giant fingers emblazoned with GO RANGERS! — digits of foam craziness that, it now appears, will never be waved by the people whose 2002 debut found them hailed as the best new rock band since Nicholls's idols Nirvana.

In a last-ditch attempt to change the group's mind, and with the game fast approaching, *Blender* points out that beer will be available for purchase at the arena (this receives a nod of approval from lanky drummer and resident band party animal Hamish Rosser, 29), and there's also a good chance of seeing grown men beat the crap out of one another with large pieces of wood (ditto).

Nicholls, however, is having none of it. "I," announces the 26-year-old in a tone that brooks little opposition, "want to go to a toy shop."

Ten minutes later, the Vines, who are in town to promote their second CD, *Winning Days*, are standing in the foyer of Toys "R" Us in Times Square, inspecting the store's indoor Ferris wheel.

"I went on that thing last time I was here," Nicholls sniffs. "It looks good. But then you get to the top, and you're stuck there for fucking ages. I wouldn't recommend it."

Inside the store, bassist Patrick Matthews, 28, tries on a sea captain's hat, while Nicholls berates Rosser for his

selection of a toy guitar ("Are you sure you want that? I mean, are you actually going to take that home with you?") and a tambourine-and-triangle set ("Another wasted purchase!").

"I thought this would be fun, but it's actually quite dull," Nicholls says after we have been in the store all of 10 minutes. "Let's go get something to eat."

As we walk to Virgil's, a nearby barbecue restaurant, the lead singer reveals that he has given up both drinking and smoking. "Not smoking isn't hard," he muses. "One day I just decided to stop."

*Blender* points out that this news is bound to provoke hatred in smokers who have tried to quit without success.

"Oh, stick around," he smirks, evilly. "You'll soon find plenty of other reasons to hate me!"

While, to be fair, the singer will later apologize for his behavior, Nicholls's antics during dinner are indeed somewhat irritating, as he alternates between look-at-me self-flagellation ("I'm so pretentious! We're all such clichés!"), non sequiturs ("I like monkeys") and rock-star boorishness (thrusting his glass over his head when the waiter fails to refill his Coke quickly enough).

Not that Nicholls's behavior comes as a huge shock. This is the man, after all,

## SPEND OUR CASH!

- THE BAND  
The Vines
- THE MISSION **\$1848**  
To spend ~~\$848~~ in one day any way they want
- THE REASON  
*Blender* asked them to!







8:47 P.M.

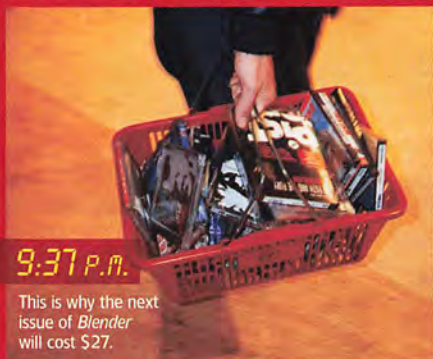
Yes, Craig — you look just like the Statue of Liberty.



10:17 P.M.

Hamish: "So where are my other six beers?"

A TEST OF HUMAN NATURE!



9:37 P.M.

This is why the next issue of *Blender* will cost \$27.



10:09 P.M.

"And this is how not to knock down any pins at all!"



You want me to stick it where?

10:42 P.M.

who got the Vines banned from *The Tonight Show* by destroying an array of equipment during rehearsals and who has been known to lock himself in the bathroom for three hours before a show. Nicholls may semi-seriously complain about one of his bandmates' fondness for acid — "One time he got so wasted, he took all his clothes off and tried to eat the pavement!" — but he himself seems more than familiar with the other LSD: Lead Singer's Disease.

**"Stick around. You'll find plenty of reasons to hate me!"** ★

What turns the evening's tide is a post-dinner visit to the Virgin Megastore, where Nicholls scoops up the entire stock of CDs by the late attack-dog comedy icon Bill Hicks: "I don't care if I've got duplicates. I just love him!" Meanwhile, guitarist Ryan Griffiths, 25, arrives at the cash register carrying a basket loaded down with DVDs: the *Alien* Quadrilogy box set, *The Wild Bunch*, *A Hard Day's Night*, both *Wayne's World* movies, a *Simpsons* box and a raft of other films that when rung up total more than \$800. When Griffiths is informed that this is much more money than the band has left, the guitarist's face scrunches into an expression of misery.

"My house burned down," he whispers.

What?

"It's true," Rosser says. "Ryan, Patrick and Craig were all living in the same house. It burned down while we were on tour. Ryan lost everything."

"We need more money!" Nicholls adds. *Blender* agrees that — on this occasion and this occasion only — the customary \$848 allowance should be increased to \$1,848.

Delighted, and still cooing over his CDs, Nicholls improves his attitude dramatically. He even expresses contrition over his previous behavior.

"I was just really nervous about doing this," he explains. "I really hate the idea of coming across as pretentious. Most of the time, people think *too* much. I want to show that we're normal. We're the kind of people who go shopping, eat dinner and like to bowl."

To prove this, we relocate to the Leisure Time bowling emporium inside the Port Authority bus terminal, where the Vines decide that their remaining cash should be awarded to the winner. Sadly, *Blender's* hopes of reclaiming at

least some dough are soon dashed by Matthews, who, fortified by a couple of beers, establishes an immediate and commanding lead.

"Most people concentrate on hitting the central pin," Matthews says when, with his score nearly triple *Blender's*, we ask him for advice. "But it's just as important to pay attention to where your hand is when you let go of the ball."

Under Matthews's Yoda-ish tutelage, *Blender's* game improves — but too little, too late. The final score: Nicholls 93, Rosser 97, Griffiths 98, *Blender* 119 and Matthews . . . 161!

"Did we not mention that he's really good at this?" laughs Nicholls, who suddenly couldn't be friendlier.

"To be honest, that's my low end," Matthews says. "I'd usually expect to score around 180."

"Do you want to know the tip I *didn't* give you?" he adds, stuffing *Blender's* last hundred bucks into his pocket. "Only play games that you know how to win! Now how about a rematch?" [BLENDER]

HOW THEY SPENT IT	
THE VINES	
New York, February 2, 2004	
HOCKEY TICKETS (UNUSED)	\$178
FOAM FINGERS (UNUSED)	\$24
TOYS	\$75
DINNER	\$245
CDs AND DVDs	\$1,142
BOWLING	\$80
PATRICK'S WINNINGS	\$100
TOTAL	\$1,848



“BAFFLED.”

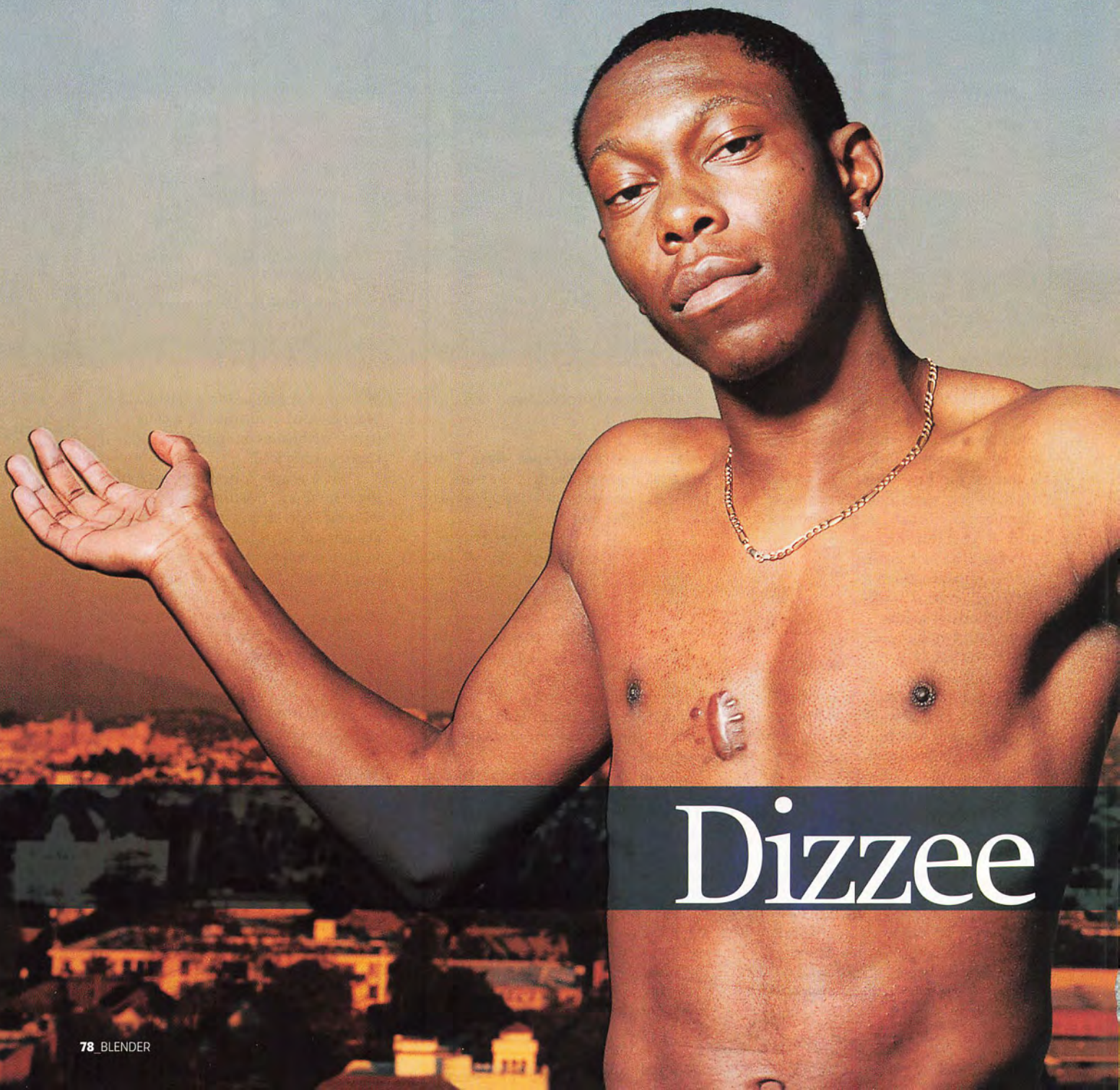
That’s how Dizzee Rascal felt when his 2003 debut album, *Boy in Da Corner*, was nominated for Britain’s prestigious Mercury Music Prize.

After four years spent struggling in the obscurity of London’s underground garage scene, Dizzee, who had just turned 19, was suddenly at the point of being anointed Britain’s coolest musician.

He was raised Dylan Mills, in the closest thing Britain has to the projects — the council estates of East London.

Now here he was getting drunk on free booze at the posh Grosvenor House Hotel. Befuddled by Hennessy and unused to the glitzy surroundings, he wasn’t even sure what was going on. He assumed that everyone nominated tonight — including Coldplay and Radiohead — would be receiving a prize.

And then Ms. Dynamite was onstage announcing the winner, and he felt every-



# Dizzee

thing inside him go quiet. Drunkenly, he wondered, "Did she just say my name?"

\*\*\*\*\*

TONIGHT, DYLAN MILLS slumps backstage at the Brooklyn club Volume. He flew in to New York last night; later, at midnight, he'll play his first U.S. show.

He looks jetlagged. But then, he's looked that way for years.

"My body clock is effed," he says. "It has been for about three years. I don't know when I'm supposed to sleep."

British and American critics have been hyperventilating for months about, as one put it, "the most original and exciting artist to emerge from the dance-music scene in a decade," and Dizze's acclaim is deserved. *Boy in Da Corner* is an extraordinary CD, one that makes its own rules. The first time around, its abrasive, offbeat rhythms can come across as an anarchic mess; listen again and the delirious, carefully built shapes of his songs begin to emerge.

Dizze's delivery is no less eccentric: One minute somberly introspective, the next hilarious, his voice skitters up and down the octave like a nervous spider. Post-Slick Rick, it has been almost impossible to imagine hip-hop with a British accent. But here's an MC who rhymes *crew* with the quintessentially

English boast that he's "flushing MCs down the loo." The Streets' Mike Skinner made inroads with *Original Pirate Material*, but Dizze is something else.

Guru, from Brooklyn hip-hop stalwarts Gang Starr, has already given a hearty endorsement to Dizze's big-beat single "Fix Up Look Sharp." "That's like ragga mixed with hip-hop with an incredible, original U.K. style," he enthused recently. "I honestly believe he can sell mad records in the States. He's got good energy, man."

Upon hearing the quotation, Dizze lights up. "Coming from Guru? The essence of old-school hip hop? The real innovator? He's a pioneer."

For his American bow, Dizze has brought DJ Slimzee — a white DJ from Britain's Pay As U Go Cartel — to run the turntables.

From the moment Dizze leaps onstage, the crowd is with him. "We're bringing London to you," he calls. "LDN to the NYC!"

Garage may be very British, but it has always looked to America. Dizze is ecstatic to be here; his skittery rhymes are lighting up the room. He signals for Slimzee to hold the backing and delivers "Brand New Day" a cappella: "Looks like I'm losing mates/There's a lot of hostility near my gates/We used to fight wid' kids

from other estates/Now eight millimeters settle debates. . . ."

Dizze represents a generation of British youth who are experiencing something similar to what happened to the American hip-hop generation 20 years earlier. In the gentler British Isles, the kill rate may not be anywhere near as high, but Dizze's generation has witnessed a rapid increase in violence, gang culture, suicide, gun use and imprisonment. Their parents don't get it. "It's real out here," he rhymes on "Do It." "Like no one understands sometimes/If people could see what's really going on/People just going mad in front of me."

"It's fucked," Dizze says of the East London he grew up in. He saw his first dead body, a man killed by his wife, when he was just 10. Since then, he has witnessed gun violence several times — once, a man was killed in front of him at a rave. "There is a lot of shooting. I've seen people getting shot, stabbed. All kinds of shit. It's not a game."

As a precocious 15-year-old, Dizze was already a name in the rambunctious garage-music scene. That was the year he made it onto the flagship pirate-radio station Rinse FM alongside local heroes MC Wiley and the Pay As U Go Cartel, Roll Deep Crew and More Fire, but he'd already been broadcasting until the →

Dizze Rascal: "No, it's not a third nipple!"

# Goes to Hollywood

→ The most original new voice in hip-hop is not from Los Angeles or Brooklyn, but from the grubby streets of East London. Say hello to the five-times-stabbed Dylan Mills, a.k.a. **Dizze Rascal** — the 19-year-old they're calling the British 50 Cent

BY WILLIAM SHAW  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN STEPHENS



# Stabbed!

Last year, Dizzee Rascal went on vacation — and got knifed five times! Here's his story . . .



1 While in Ayia Napa, Cyprus, Dizzee slaps a pretty girl on her tush. Mistake. It's Lisa Maffia — a major pop star and part of Britain's So Solid Crew.



2 Dizzee later gets into a fight with So Solid Crew leader Megaman. Dizzee claims he beats up Mega.



3 Later, Dizzee is on a scooter when four youths armed with knives pull him off and stab him. He is subsequently hospitalized with knife wounds, and is kept under police protection.



4 Megaman is questioned, then released. Police say they're looking for two members of Cream Cartel — a crew affiliated with So Solid — who left the island shortly after Dizzee was stabbed.

wee hours of the morning on smaller North London stations for months.

His school life, understandably, was taking a beating.

"I'd go to school in the morning, and I was so tired. So I stopped giving a shit about lessons. I used to bunk off and do music." Dizzee's voice is half-Cockney, half-rude boy. Where an American rapper would use *y'know what I'm sayin'?*, Dizzee says *innit?*

"I tell you, these last three years, I haven't had a lot of sleep, innit? We was doing raves from when I was 16, 17 — going up and down the country, sometimes doing two or three raves in one night. I was always coming home at 6 o'clock in the morning. I'm sure my mum thought I was selling drugs."

Born in 1984, Dizzee was raised in London by his mother, who hails from Ghana, in the ancient East End district of Bow. Her state-subsidized apartment was in a massive sprawl of impoverished and sometimes violent housing projects that lie north of the Thames.

His mother worked long hours to support him; his father died before Dylan turned 2. He refuses to discuss specifics.

"I don't really talk about that," he says quietly. "I just know that my mother raised me."

He also politely declines to talk about how he used to mug pizza deliverymen.

*You don't talk about the bad stuff.*

"'Cause I'm trying to make music. A mistake with a lot of hip-hop is the bombardment of that stuff," Dizzee says. "I know other stuff as well."

He doesn't like being made to fit pre-conceived notions. He tells you proudly that Nirvana are among his biggest influences. He gives props to a white, middle-aged teacher named Tim Smith, who stood up for him after he had been thrown out of three schools for fighting and truancy. (Smith allowed him to drop everything else and concentrate solely on music.)

What's the most important thing his mother taught him?

"Independence, man," he says.

★★★★★

TWO DAYS LATER, Dizzee is in Los Angeles to appear on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, his American TV debut. He fills his free time shopping.

As he drives around Hollywood, he keeps the radio tuned to the local hip-hop station Power 106. Dizzee listens as if

he's paying attention to a physics lecture: nodding, his brow slightly furrowed. It's as if his radar is permanently on.

An old-school Bobby Brown track comes on. "That's nang, man," Rascal says. (*Nang = bitchin'*.)

Earlier this morning, Dizzee was in the lobby of his artfully designed Sunset Boulevard hotel, sitting in a clear plastic "bubble chair" suspended from the ceiling by a chain. He was treating the '60s design classic like a playground swing, pushing off from the wall with his Nikes. "L.A.," he announced, "is nang."

Dizzee; his manager, Nick Denton; and DJ Slimzee go into JMartin Designs on Melrose Avenue. JMartin custom-paints clothing for Method Man, Xzibit, Jennifer Lopez and David Beckham. Dizzee is commissioning a jumpsuit with a spray-painted portrait on the front, plus his personal logo — a dog turd surrounded by buzzing flies. "I want that for the Brit Awards," he explains, referring to the U.K. equivalent of the Grammys.

He wanders around, gazing solemnly at artists' aerosol-can works of his heroes Kurt Cobain and Tupac Shakur. "That Tupac poster," he announces, "is nang."

The manager calls from the counter: "Hey, Dizzee — you want the dog shit brown or white?"

★★★★★

BLENDER'S photographer wants to shoot Dizzee with his shirt off.

Dizzee is reluctant. The stab wound on his chest is in plain view — a hole ringed by a bunch of stitch scars. Some papers here have started calling him the British 50 Cent. He's not sure he wants the gangsta baggage.

"I admire him," he says, "but to tell the truth, when I made my album, I would've gladly stayed behind the music as a producer. Coming out and being at the front is a lot to live up to."

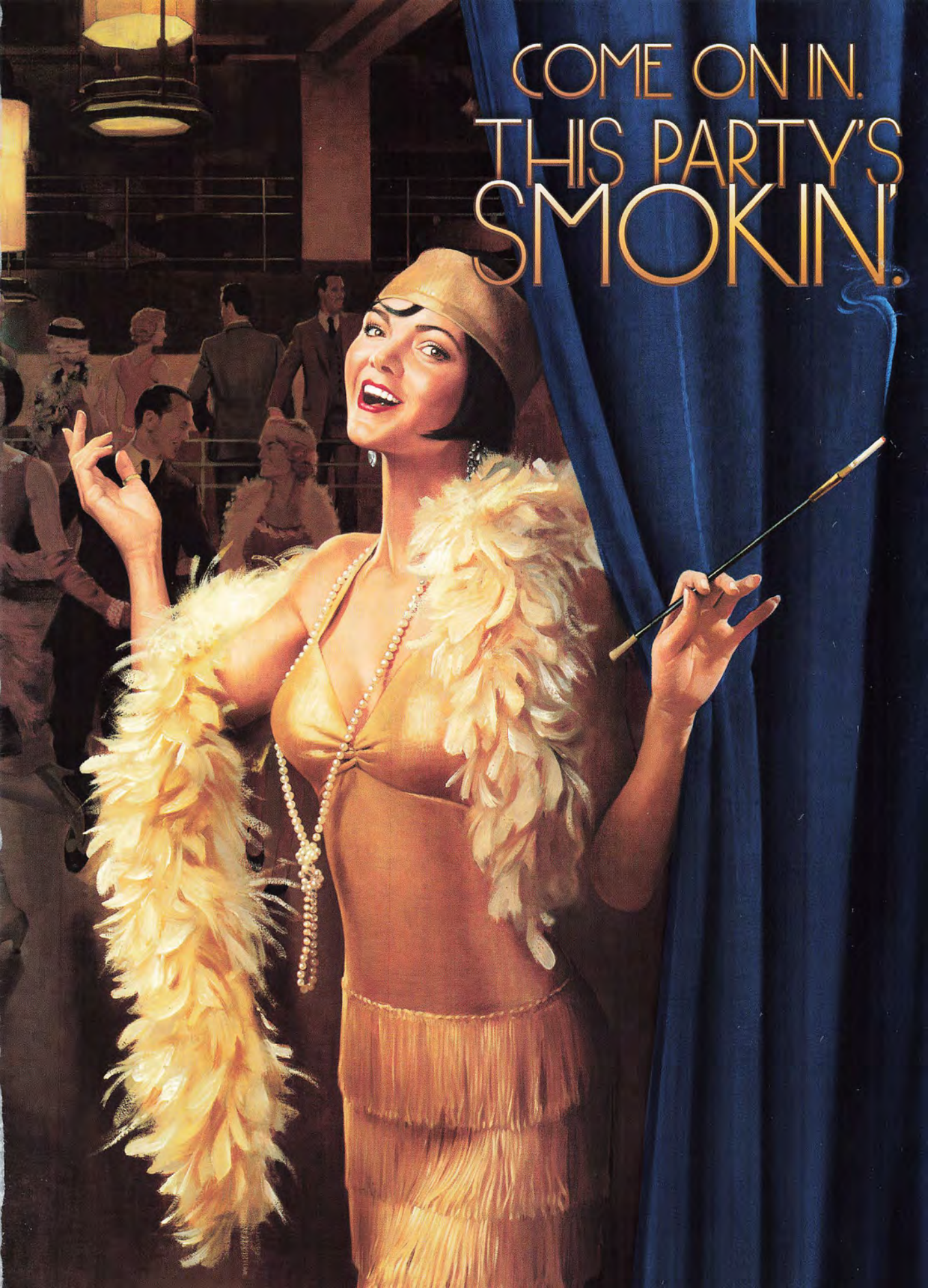
Exactly what happened when Dizzee was stabbed is unclear, but the incident says a

lot about the simmering tensions of the scene from which he emerged.

Every summer, U.K. garage mavens vacation in Ayia Napa, a resort town on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Away from the grim streets of London, anything goes. It's a release. There's a lot of drinking and plenty of late nights. Antagonisms between crews from different territories, held in check at home, boil over in the heat. CONTINUED ON PAGE 81 →



COME ON IN.  
THIS PARTY'S  
SMOKIN'!





# CAMEL

PRESENTS  
**THE ROARING  
2000'S**

NOT SINCE THE '20s HAS IT BEEN  
SO EASY TO LIVE SO LARGE

20 SPEAKEASY MANSION GETAWAYS

Leave your inhibitions at home and revel in a wild  
weekend of speakeasy-era indulgence.

200 RAUCOUS PARTY PACKS

20,000 DECADENT DELIGHTS

GET IN AT [WWW.CAMELSMOKES.COM](http://WWW.CAMELSMOKES.COM)

Scratch to reveal your code  
Go to [www.camelsmokes.com](http://www.camelsmokes.com)  
You could be an INSTANT winner!

OFFER AND WEBSITE RESTRICTED TO SMOKERS  
21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.



# CAMEL



THE BOURBON  
IS SMOOTH.  
THE SMOKE IS  
CAMEL BACK  
ALLEY BLEND.

Introducing Back Alley Blend. The  
smoke of choice for bootleggers and  
socialites. Only available for a limited  
time. For retailers near you, go to  
[www.camelsmokes.com](http://www.camelsmokes.com)

WEBSITE RESTRICTED TO SMOKERS  
21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

**ABBREVIATED RULES Camel Roaring 2000's Promotion: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Purchase will not improve chances of winning.** Limited to legal residents of the 50 U.S. (D.C. included, but void to residents of MA and MI) who are smokers 21 or older with a valid government-issued photo ID. Void in MA, MI and wherever prohibited by law. Promotional Period: Promotion begins 12:00:00 a.m. midnight ET 3/29/04 and ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET 8/31/04. A day begins at 12:00:00 a.m. midnight ET and ends 11:59:59 p.m. of same day. Promotion ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET on 8/31/04, or until supply of Plays with prizes is exhausted, whichever occurs first. **To Participate:** Look for scratch-off game pieces inside mailings distributed by Sponsor or inside select magazines. Game pieces will contain an Access Code that will allow smokers with a Personal Identification Number (PID) issued by Sponsor to interact with [www.camelsmokes.com](http://www.camelsmokes.com) (the "Website"). Sponsor will distribute e-mails to a select group on its database; if you received an e-mail, click on the link in the e-mail (e-mails will not have an Access Code). If you have a PID but did not receive a game piece or e-mail, you may visit the Website and follow online instructions to obtain an Access Code. If you are an eligible smoker 21 years or older, but do not have PID, (A) visit Website to see if you can be instantly verified and issued PID/password/Access Code, or (B) participate in Promotion via mail without an Access Code or PID (see below for details). **To Play:** Internet: Visit Website during Promotional Period or click on link in e-mail distributed by Sponsor; valid PID, password and e-mail address required for Internet participation. To access Promotion, click on Promotion banner, icon or text link and follow online entry instructions; by participating you will be added to Sponsor's distribution list. When all information is submitted, entrant will be informed whether he/she has won a prize (a "Play"). If you receive message stating, "Congratulations, you've won!", you win prize stated (subject to verification). Non-winning messages read, "Sorry, try again tomorrow." Entrant may opt-off Sponsor's distribution list at any time by following link in Sponsor distributed e-mails; opting-off distribution list will not affect entrant's chance of winning. **By Mail:** If you do not have a PID, hand print on a piece of paper your name, address, e-mail address (if applicable), daytime phone, birth date, and signed statement, "I certify that I am a smoker; that I am 21 years of age or older; and that I want to participate in the Camel Roaring 2000's Promotion. I agree to abide by the Official Rules. I understand that giving false information in order to participate in the Promotion may constitute a violation of law." Mail completed submission in a 1st-class stamped envelope, along with photocopy of your government-issued photo ID to: Camel Roaring 2000's Promotion, P.O. Box 5558, Norwood, MN 55583-5558 postmarked by 9/1/04 for receipt by 9/9/04. When mail-in submission is received/verified for completeness, a judging agency will play on your behalf (while supply of Plays with prizes last). Winners notified by mail and/or phone; non-winners will not be contacted. Limit 1 Play per person/PID per day. 500,000 Plays available. **Prizes/Odds: Grand Prize (20):** A trip for winner and travel companion to the Camel Speakeasy Mansion Getaway (date/location determined by Sponsor). ARV \$2,000. Odds 1:20,000. **First Prize (200):** A Camel Raucous Party Pack. ARV \$1,658. Odds 1:2,500. **Second Prize (5):** Elixir Glass Set (4 glasses). ARV \$50. Odds 1:100,000. **Third Prize (500):** A 1920's-Themed DVD. ARV \$ 20. Odds 1:1,000. **Fourth Prize (1,500):** A T-shirt. ARV \$15. Odds 1:334. **Fifth Prize (2,000):** A Retro Lighter. ARV \$ 10. Odds 1:250. **Sixth Prize (15,995):** Two free packs of any style Camel cigarettes (awarded as product coupons). ARV \$ 10. Odds 1:32. Total ARV of all prizes \$584,300. **Unclaimed and forfeited Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Prizes will not be awarded. Second Chance Drawing:** Non-winners will be automatically entered into Second Chance Drawing to be eligible to win any unclaimed/forfeited Grand and First Prizes. Odds depend on number of unclaimed/forfeited Grand and First Prizes; and number of eligible entries received. Limit 1 Grand Prize per person/PID; limit 1 Second Chance Drawing prize per person/PID. Subject to Official Rules, available on Website. **Sponsor:** R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, 401 N. Main Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. All Promotional Costs Paid By Manufacturer.

TURKISH GOLD: 10 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine, LIGHTS HARD PACK: 10 mg. "tar", 0.9 mg. nicotine, BACK ALLEY BLEND: 11 mg. "tar", 0.9 mg. nicotine, FILTERS HARD PACK: 16 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette by FTC method. For more product information, visit [www.rjrt.com](http://www.rjrt.com).

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette  
Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.**





JEANS BY LEVI'S, SHOES BY NIKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 80 →

Last July was Dizzee's first time there. Maybe he didn't do himself any favors when he slapped the ass of a pretty girl he saw walking past. The tush turned out to belong to one of the garage scene's biggest stars, Lisa Maffia, a singer affiliated with the popular British hip-hop clique So Solid Crew.

Some time after the Maffia incident, Dizzee tells *Blender*, he was rushed by members of the So Solid Crew. A fight between Dizzee and So Solid's moody but charismatic leader, Megaman, ensued. Dizzee claims he got the better of Mega.

Later still, Dizzee was pulled off his moped by four attackers armed with knives. They stabbed him five times in the back and chest, in what may — or may not — have been payback.

Dizzee was hospitalized. It never crossed his mind that he could have died. He just sat on the hospital gurney muttering vengeance: "Bastards," over and over. That first night, wracked by coughing, he couldn't sleep. Only in the morning did he realize it was blood from the wound on his chest that he was coughing up. "I felt I'd been caught up in some madness," he says.

Dizzee's first U.S. show, at the Brooklyn club Volume, February 7



Angry about violence on their watch, Cypriot police interrogated Dizzee, who denied Mega's involvement. "I got a problem, I'm not going to the police," he says.

The police detained Megaman for questioning but released him, clearing him of any connection with the assault.

"I'm not scared," Dizzee says now. "If anything, I feel stronger." He's upset that nobody knows the truth about what happened. "I punched up Megaman; I

↑ Dizzee flagrantly disobeys the swimming pool's "no running, no diving, no getting wasted on Hennessy" rules.

humiliated that boy," he says with a flash of anger. "And every real nigga on the island knows what happened."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON is the run-through for Dizzee's performance on *Jimmy Kimmel*.

After the rehearsal, the show's floor manager approaches Dizzee and warns him that he's flashing three inches of ass crack. That's going to be too much for American network television.

Five minutes before Dizzee is due to go on live, Kimmel shows a still from the rehearsal: three inches of Dizzee's ass crack, pixelated to avoid offending more sensitive viewers. Yuks all around.

After a wildly energized performance of "Fix Up Look Sharp," Dizzee shrugs when reminded of his bare ass being broadcast nationwide. "Everything comes with a price," he says.

He looks for a drink. "I'll be honest," he adds, straight-faced. "I thought my arse was blacker than that." [BLENDER]

# Carmen & Dave!

BY DAVID KEEPS ★ PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK HOELCK

➔ One of them is a beautiful hardbody with a heart of gold. And so is the other one! Just what are MTV supercouple Carmen Electra and Dave Navarro's secrets to a loving relationship? Guy-on-guy snogging, whips and handcuffs — and much, much more!

## HOW TO CATCH THE EYE OF A FAMOUS BAYWATCH BABE

**Dave Navarro:** "Carmen was a big fan of the kiss between me and Anthony Kiedis in the Red Hot Chili Peppers video for 'Warped.' At the time, so many people gave me shit about it — like, 'He's a fag' — but I knew in the back of my mind, 'Somewhere there's going to be a chick who finds that hot.' And look who stood up and paid attention: the hottest chick on the planet. So all those frat guys can eat their fucking words."

## HOW TO MEET A FAMOUS ROCK STAR

**Carmen Electra:** "We were set up on a blind date by a mutual friend. We didn't even have a phone conversation. I thought I wouldn't live up to his expectations, that he might be disappointed if I didn't take my clothes off and dance on the bar. Which I still will do occasionally."

## HOW TO PICK A GOOD "DATE MOVIE"

**Navarro:** "We went to the movies on our second date. We saw *Requiem for a Dream* [a harrowing depiction of heroin addiction], which was perfect, because I knew that world. They always say to stick with what you know. It is kind of a dark movie, so it gave me the ability to reassure her during discomfoting scenes. And that was part of my plan!"

## HOW TO KNOW WHEN SOMEONE IS "THE ONE"

**Electra:** "Once I looked into his eyes, I could see he was so sweet. I knew he had my back and wouldn't hurt me. But he was also witty and funny and interesting enough that I wouldn't get bored. And I get bored so quickly. The feelings I had for Dave were so intense and fast, I wanted to die."



*Requiem for a Dream:* That's one way to stop smoking.

## HOW TO ALMOST BLOW IT

**Electra:** "Some time went by, and I wasn't sure if Dave was really into me, and I think he was feeling the same. Finally he called me and said, 'Is there a pink elephant in the room?' So I told him that I was afraid because I'd been hurt badly before. I hadn't dated for a year, and I was finally getting to a place where I felt really strong on my own. Getting swept away on our first date was very scary for me. Not to mention that Dave drove a two-seater sports car at the time, and right between the two seats was a shovel!"

## HOW TO MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR LOVER'S DRUG-ADDICTED, HELL-RAISING, GROUPIE-SHAGGING PAST

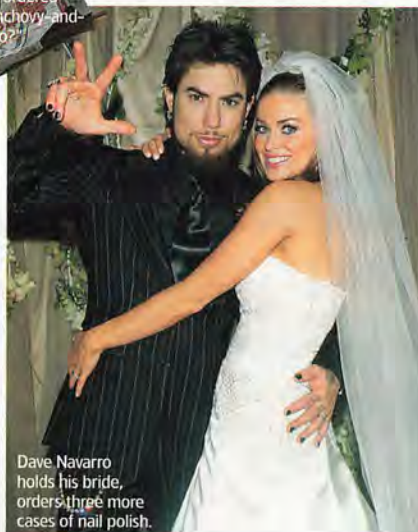
**Electra:** "Both of us have been through so much, it takes a lot to rattle us. I don't love that Dave's gone through so much, but I accept everything. He's so smart and experienced, and that's attractive. Everybody has a past. Well, then again, not everybody is as adventurous as we are. I'm definitely the type of person that you could tell me 100 times not to do something, but I have to find out the hard way."

## HOW TO PICK THE WEDDING DATE

**Electra:** "We were married on November 22, 2003, the [fortieth



"Who ordered the anchovy-and-mango?"



Dave Navarro holds his bride, orders three more cases of nail polish.

anniversary] of John F. Kennedy's assassination. People think of the death of Kennedy as the end of a great era, but we think of it as the beginning of another one."

## HOW TO SHOP FOR A LOVED ONE

**Navarro:** "On our first Christmas together, Carmen was taking a trip to New York, so I told her, 'Here are a couple of things you might need and maybe forgot to pack.' I got her handcuffs and a whip!"



## HOW TO ARGUE CONSTRUCTIVELY

**Electra:** "We have time-outs. If one of us is really pissing the other off — say, Dave's playing with my ear or imitating Michael Jackson — we call a time-out and just stop doing it. There's one thing we always fight about: He likes the house cold, and I like it really warm. So I'll crank up the heat, and then he'll take it all the way down to, like, 60. I'll be in the living room, shaking, freezing. I have to put on a parka and a beanie and a scarf. You'd think he'd want me to be comfortable!"

## HOW TO ARGUE CONSTRUCTIVELY, PART 2

**Navarro:** "That's what you'd think. We're going to start right now, because the problem is that she can't wait the five fucking minutes it takes for the house to heat up. She cranks it too hot, then I have to turn it down in order to get to a balance. I'll just fucking throw down with you right now over that shit!"

## HOW TO KEEP A TIDY HOUSE

**Navarro:** "We have a houseboy who lives with us and who does the cleaning. Which is great, because Carmen's a real slob. My chore is picking up her half-empty Coke cans. I don't say a fucking word. I knew that about her before I got into this; I ain't got no right to complain. But if she ever put something back in the fridge, I would be thrilled!"

## HOW TO GROW OLD GRACEFULLY

**Navarro:** "Once I hit 40, which is in three years, I want to hook up a hotline in my house, a red telephone with a direct connection to Domino's, and just order pizzas whenever I want."

## HOW TO GROW OLD GRACEFULLY, PART 2

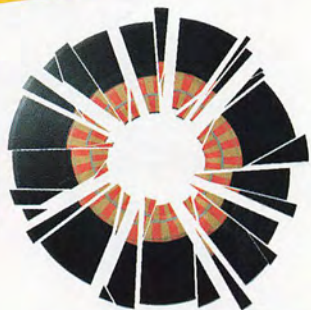
**Electra:** "I'd like to grow old looking very young. And have lots of babies!" [BLENDER]

“Not everybody is as adventurous as we are.”

ON NAVARRO: SHIRT BY LORDS, LEATHER PANTS BY HENRY DUARTE, SHOES BY LOUIS VUITTON, BELT AND LEATHER CUFFS BY CHROME HEARTS, SILVER NECKLACE BY ROYAL ORDER, SILVER SPINE RING BY HENRY DUARTE  
DRI ELECTRA: BLACK CORSET DRESS BY LE CHATEAU, AVAILABLE AT CLUB 501, SHOES BY CHRISTIAN DIOR, PLATINUM MULTI-DIAMOND RING AND LARGE PLATINUM DIAMOND CROSS NECKLACE AND EARRINGS BY ALAN FRIEDMAN, LEATHER BRACELET, BRAIDED LEATHER NECKLACE WITH SILVER CROSS AND SMALL SILVER DIAMOND CROSS NECKLACE BY CHROME HEARTS

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE! IT'S...

THE  
**50**



# WORST SONGS EVER!



→ Some have crap-tastic melodies. Others are wretchedly performed. And quite a few don't make any sense whatsoever. *Blender* removes its earplugs to present the 50 tunes we love to hate

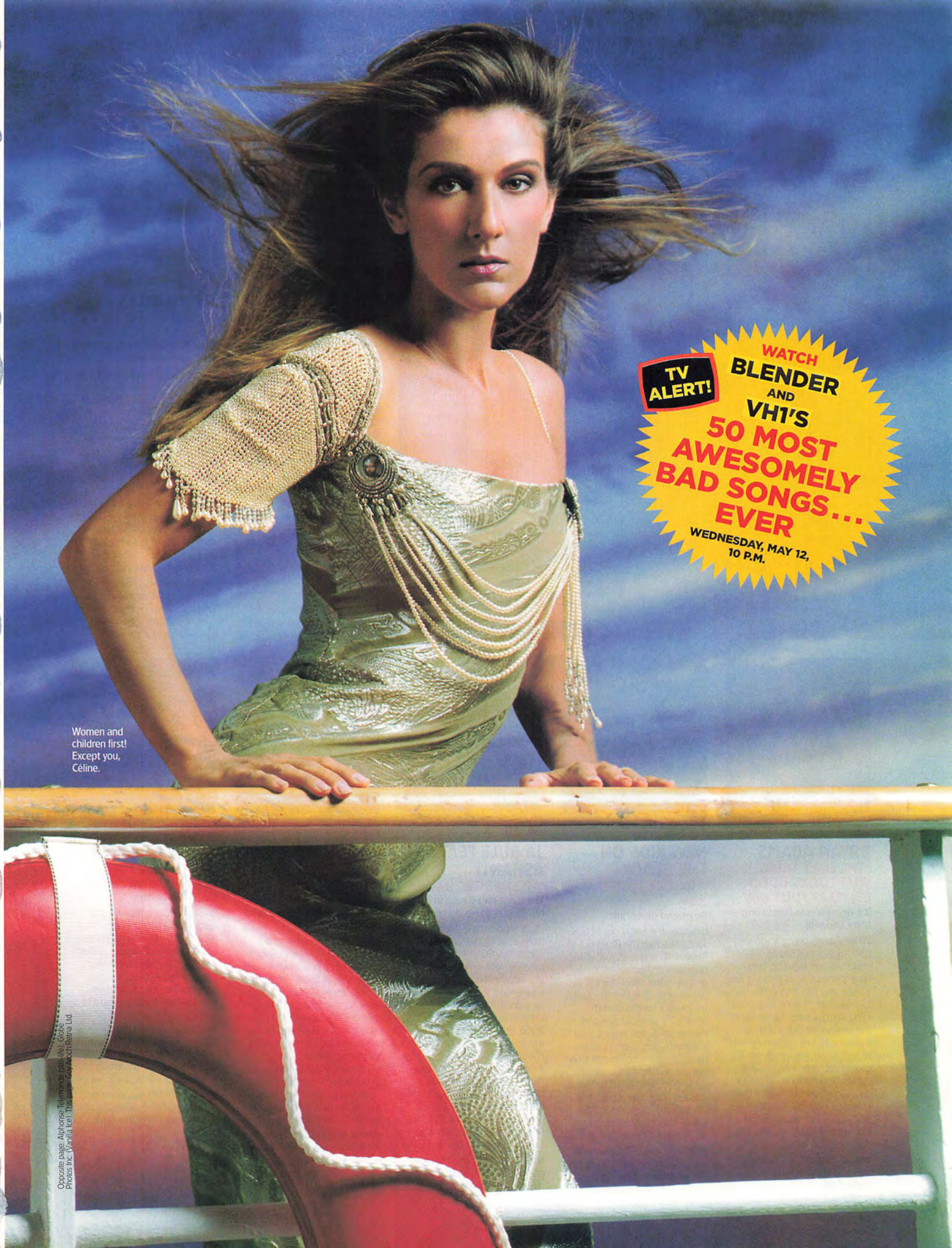
BY JOHN AIZLEWOOD, CLARK COLLIS, STEVE KANDELL, BEN MITCHELL, TONY POWER, JAMES SLAUGHTER, ROB TANNENBAUM, MIM UDOVITCH, RENE VIENET AND JONAH WEINER

## 50 CÉLINE DION "MY HEART WILL GO ON" 1998

And on and on and on . . .

Lop off all but the first 20 seconds of this monster ballad, and it *still* merits a slot on this list for the unconscionable crime of adding pan-flute solos to the pop lexicon. But it doesn't stop there: With a voice full of ornamental quivers and trembles, Canadian dynamo Céline Dion pushes arena-size schmaltz into the red, first cutting her syllables preciously short, then strangling each one out. Never has a song about all-consuming love sounded so trivial and been so inescapable — it powered the *Titanic* soundtrack to a year-topping 10 million copies sold, and made millions more pray that an iceberg would somehow hit Dion.

**WORST MOMENT** The third chorus, where she goes from soft to eye-bleedingly loud.



**TV ALERT!**  
**WATCH BLENDER AND VH1'S 50 MOST AWESOMELY BAD SONGS... EVER**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 10 P.M.**

Women and children first!  
 Except you, Celine.

Opposite page: Alphorse, Telemundo (right), Goble  
 Photos Inc. (Vanilla Ice), The Image Group/Archimedia Ltd.



Right Said Fred always liked to play down the "gay" thing.

# 49

## RIGHT SAID FRED "I'M TOO SEXY" 1992

The answer to Spinal Tap's question "What's wrong with being sexy?"

Right Said Fred were horrible, bald novelty Brits whose one claim to fame was a song that announced that they were "too sexy" for most things, from "New York" to "my cat." Alas, singer Richard Fairbrass resembled Midnight Oil's Peter Garrett, and was therefore "too sexy" for precisely nothing. The song spawned a welter of grating catchphrases starting with "I'm too sexy" repeated endlessly by annoying people: "I'm too sexy for my tractor," etc. Disturbingly, the Freds, as nobody calls them, are still going.

**WORST MOMENT** The so-called chorus, in which, instead of mumbling, Fairbrass tries to sing. Stop it. Stop it *now!*

Right Said Fred were "too sexy" for . . . precisely nothing.



# 48

## THE BEATLES "OB-LA-DI, OB-LA-DA" 1968

You can practically hear them gritting their teeth

The Beatles proved conclusively that there were two things they could not do: play reggae and feign enjoyment. "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" was a ska track recorded at a point during the White Album sessions when the Beatles would happily have beaten one another to death if only they had had some clubs on hand. As a result, this sounds less like reggae than the desperately chirpy songs Cockneys used to sing to keep their spirits up while the Luftwaffe rained death on them during the Blitz.

**WORST MOMENT** The woefully unconvincing laughter in the final line: "If you want some fun — heh-heh-heh-heh! — take ob-la-di-bla-da!"



# 47

## BRYAN ADAMS "THE ONLY THING THAT LOOKS GOOD ON ME IS YOU" 1996

It's Great-Uncle Disgusting — from Canada!

When Adams chose to do sexy after 15 years of chaste, aw-shucks rockin', even his fans were stunned — as if they'd just seen a stag film starring Richie Cunningham. "I don't look good in no Armani suits," he leered in the song's only believable moment, before suggesting he'd rather "wear" the song's female protagonist over a blues riff like someone explaining ZZ Top to an accountant. This wasn't the creepiest track off his album *18 Til I Die*; that accolade goes to a song called "(I Wanna Be) Your Underwear."

**WORST MOMENT** . . . There's only one thing that fits me like it should" *lck*.



# 46

## NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK "HANGIN' TOUGH" 1989

Boy-band blueprint!

It sucked the Swing out of New Jack, bleached the Blues out of Rhythm &, and featured white boys calling themselves "funky" despite some very unfunky denim vests. This Boston quintet triggered a hormonal rush among 13-year-old girls and intense confusion among their boyfriends, and paved the way for megaselling boy bands who ran low on talent and high on dumb hats. This 1988 hit was all crossed arms and scowls, but the tuff-guy routine didn't gel: These nancy boys make the Sharks and Jets look like G-Unit.

**WORST MOMENT** The boys warn: "Don't cross our path or you're gonna get stomped!" Scary!



# 45

## JA RULE FEAT. ASHANTI "MESMERIZE" 2002

The most hated man in hip-hop — for good reason!

Many rappers sing poorly, but none as irritatingly as Jeffrey Atkins. In 2001, he went from a raise-da-roof club grunter who treated women like car doors to a tone-deaf warbler who swore he worshiped them — and cried in his videos to prove it. On this 2002 duet with the reliably transparent Ashanti, he can't contain his horny side, repeating a cracked-voiced mantra about "Your lips/Your smile/Your hips/Those thighs" and admitting his "fetish for fucking you with your skirt on." Gains points for honesty; loses many more for coming off like an ogling doofus.

**WORST MOMENT** The two-note chorus, which is a laundry list of female body parts.



# 44

## MEAT LOAF "I'D DO ANYTHING FOR LOVE (BUT I WON'T DO THAT)" 1993

Bitch-titted balladeer seeks dictionary

Forget that this song comes from *Bat Out of Hell II: Back Into Hell* and that pop albums can't really have sequels. Forget that it's 12 minutes — and crammed with pianos, choirs and every over-the-top adornment that producer Jim Steinman could get his hands on, it feels twice that length. No, this epic chunk of histrionics' worst offense is that it doesn't make any sense. You wouldn't do *what*, exactly? It's OK for rock songs to be dumb. But not stupid.

**WORST MOMENT** Shamelessly aping "Paradise by the Dashboard Light," the boy-girl duet kicks in at around the nine-minute mark.



# 43

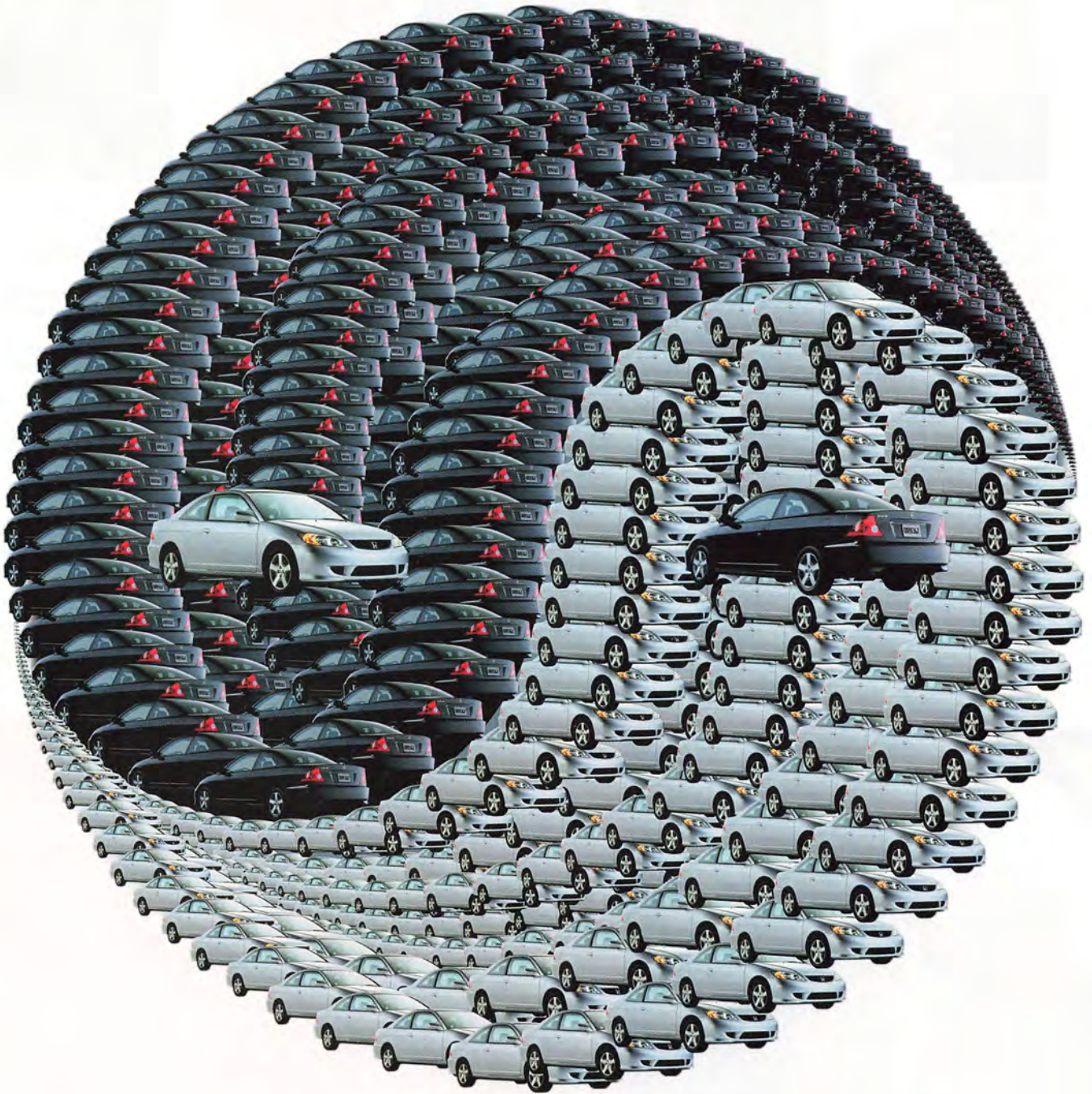
## UNCLE KRACKER "FOLLOW ME" 2000

Sleaze-rap DJ goes solo, blows like Hootie

Breaking out on his own, the leading light of Kid Rock's "Detroit plays" reneges on his boss's promise to "cause chaos" and "rock like Amadeus." He does, however, cause nausea and rock like Muzak with his nobody-saw-it-coming lite-FM stylings, hummin', strummin' and practically promisin' to tuck you in at night. The unexpected bonus? It gives hope to everyone awaiting the Terminator X collection of Air Supply covers.

**WORST MOMENT** Knowing every rhyme before it happens — the first time you hear the song.

honda.com 1-800-33-Honda EX model shown. ©2003 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
\*NHTSA NCAP frontal crash test: October 2000; side crash test: November 2000.



YOUR RIGHT BRAIN AND YOUR LEFT BRAIN WILL FINALLY BE OF THE SAME MIND. A car that can quench your emotional side and satiate your rational side. The stylish and 5-star-crash-test-rated\* Civic Coupe.





**42**  
**SIMON & GARFUNKEL**  
"THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE" 1965

If Frasier Crane were a song, he would sound like this

From the terrible opening line, in which darkness is addressed as "my old friend," the lyrics of "The Sounds of Silence" sound like a vicious parody of a pompous and pretentious mid-'60s folk singer. But it's no joke: While a rock band twangs aimlessly in the middle distance, Simon & Garfunkel thunder away in voices that suggest they're scowling and wagging their fingers as they sing. The overall experience is like being lectured on the meaning of life by a jumped-up freshman.

**WORST MOMENT** "Hear my words that I might teach you": Officially the most self-important line in rock history!



**41**  
**BILLY JOEL**  
"WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE" 1989

Can you fit a cultural history of the twentieth century into four minutes? Uh, no

Despite its bombastic production, "We Didn't Start the Fire" resembles a term paper scribbled the night before it's due. As the song progresses, Joel audibly realizes he can't cram it all in: The '70s get four belted words amid the widdly-woo guitars and meet-thy-maker drums. The chorus denies responsibility for any events mentioned, clearing up the common misconception that Billy Joel developed the H-bomb.

**WORST MOMENT** "China's under martial law, rock & roller cola wars!": No way does conflating Tiananmen Square with Michael Jackson selling Pepsi trivialize a massacre.



**40**  
**COLOR ME BADD**  
"I WANNA SEX YOU UP" 1991

Small-penis alert!

These Oklahoma R&B smoothies looked like rejects from a Benetton ad and sounded like funkies from the Keith Sweat School of Horny Jamz. This is one long string of fake falsetto moans — there's more heat in an Herbal Essences commercial — and the imagery ranges from perplexing ("We can do it till we both wake up") to downright unpleasant ("Makin' love until we drown"). Not recommended for the bedroom, unless your bedroom also features leopard-print picture frames, mirrored ceilings and a five-gallon tub of Astroglide from Costco.

**WORST MOMENT** Toward the end, *la-la-la's* creep in under whispered phrases like "Lay back and enjoy the ride."



**39**  
**RICKY MARTIN**  
"SHE BANGS" 2000

La vida proves not to be so loca after all

The arrangers of Ricky Martin's follow-up to "La Vida Loca" worked with the fevered desperation of men who had been driven to the desert and made to dig their own graves at gunpoint: first with the hooting 180-piece horn section, then the percussion played by a crateful of ADD-afflicted chimpanzees, and — finally, in a last-ditch effort at the fade — a male chorus as numerous and frenzied as the Red Army Choir let loose in a Cuban whorehouse. The ingredients of its epic predecessor are all here — but it's all wrong, and worse still, unintentionally hilarious.

**WORST MOMENT** "She looks like a flower but she stings like a bee/Like every girl in his-to-ry!"



**38**  
**REDNEX**  
"COTTON EYE JOE" 1995

Just what the world needed: a Swedish techno-bluegrass crossover

Novelty European techno is not a genre noted for its multitude of artistic high points, but "Cotton Eye Joe" may well be its nadir. A Country & Western record made by people who evidently hate C&W music with every fiber of their being, it layers a thumping beat with every hillbilly cliché known to man — twanging Jew's harp, people shouting "yee-haw!", bluegrass banjo, horses neighing — and then tops it off with a vocalist singing in what may be the most risible American accent ever committed to tape.

**WORST MOMENT** Rednex have spent more weeks at number 1 in Germany than any other artist of the last 25 years.



"I Wanna Sex You Up" never sounded so... ignorable.

## Let the People Decide!

How rotten *are* the 50 Worst Songs Ever? To find out, we sent indie-rock bard Ted Leo busking in Manhattan, armed with an acoustic guitar and a repertoire of five stinkers. The downside? Ted broke a string. The upside? We made \$6.76!

**1** **EDDIE MURPHY**  
"PARTY ALL THE TIME"

**THE PEOPLE SAY** "This turned out to be the biggest crowd-grabber — this goth dude eating chips and salsa seemed to be really into it."  
**THE PEOPLE SAY** "Eddie Murphy recorded a song?" — Mary, 17  
**SPARE CHANGE EARNED** \$2.65



**2** **4 NON BLONDES**  
"WHAT'S UP?"

**THE PEOPLE SAY** "People actually stopped for the entire song — some even sang along. I think we discovered a widely held guilty pleasure."  
**THE PEOPLE SAY** "I pass by here everyday and usually ignore all the performers, but *this* stopped me in my tracks."  
— Scott, 30  
**SPARE CHANGE EARNED** \$1.84

**3** **COLOR ME BADD**  
"I WANNA SEX YOU UP"

**THE PEOPLE SAY** "'Makin' love until we drown?' Now what liquid medium, exactly, are they making love in that puts them in danger of drowning?"  
**THE PEOPLE SAY** "Man, I'm getting pretty hot just listening to this. Did he just say

that he wants to rub me down?"  
— Drew, 22  
**SPARE CHANGE EARNED** \$1.27

**4** **BETTE MIDLER**  
"FROM A DISTANCE"

**THE PEOPLE SAY** "This is what John Lennon's 'Imagine' would sound like with new music written by the organ lady who played funerals at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bloomfield, New Jersey, back in 1982!"  
**THE PEOPLE SAY** "This sounds very *American Idol*, but I don't think he would get past Simon." — Yolanda, 32  
**SPARE CHANGE EARNED** \$1.00

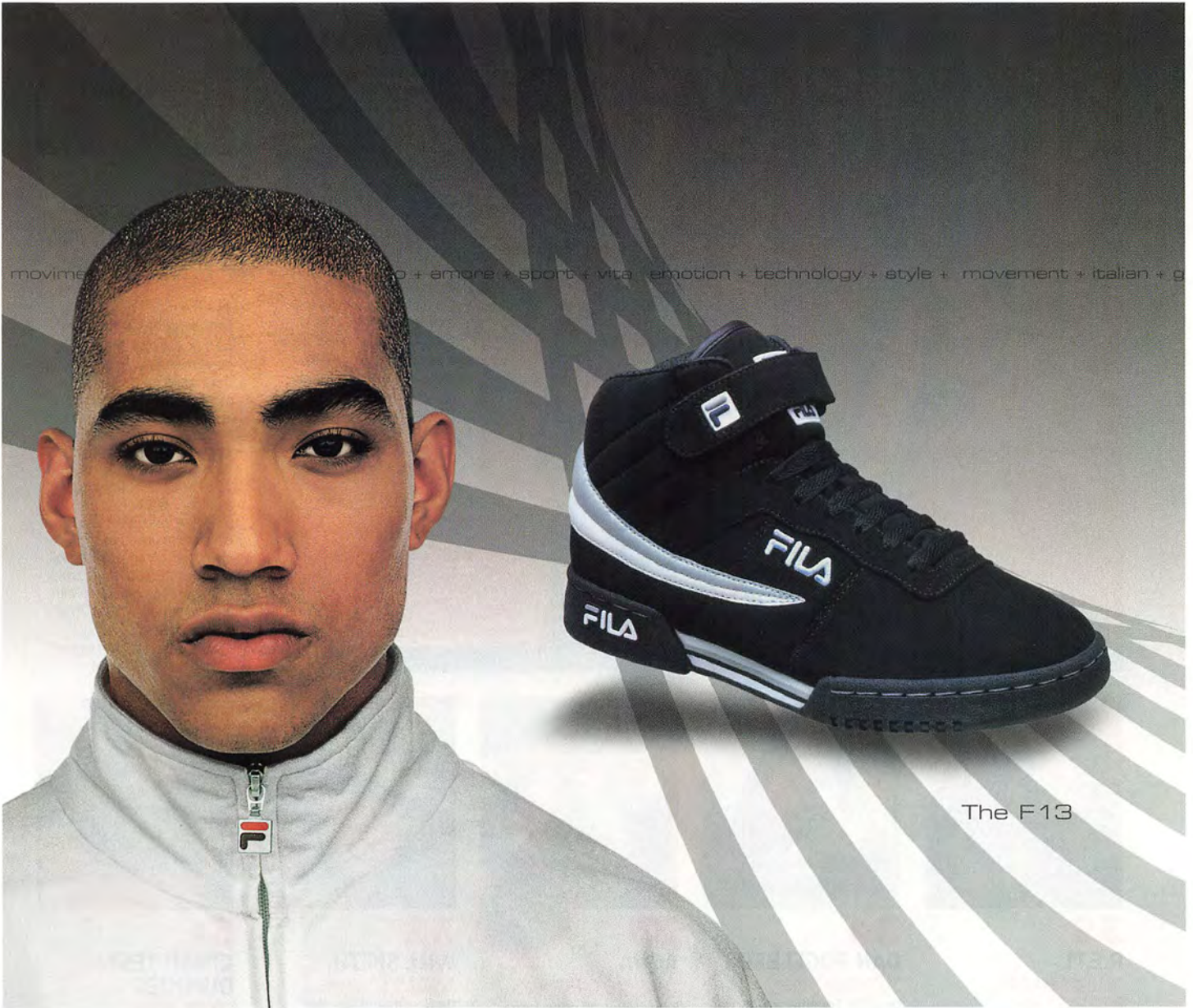
**5** **STARSHIP**  
"WE BUILT THIS CITY"

**THE PEOPLE SAY** "No one stopped for this one. People's general reaction seemed to be sidelong glances accompanied by a crooked smile and a slight shake of the head."  
**THE PEOPLE SAY** "This song is totally retarded!" — Marshall, 22  
**SPARE CHANGE EARNED** \$0.00  
**TED LEO & PHARMACISTS' HEARTS OF OAK (LOOKOUT!) IS IN STORES NOW.**





FILA®



movime + amore + sport + vita + emotion + technology + style + movement + italian + g

The F13

peluche plush peluche plüsch pluche felpa plush



**Foot Locker.**

footlocker.com



fila.com

# 37

## GERARDO "RICO SUAVE" 1991

He was Vanilla Ice for the Telemundo set

Long before Ricky Martin lived *la vida loca*, another fleet-footed, sexually ambiguous Latino star crossed over to pop-chart glory by turning an otherwise forgettable dance-pop tune into a ubiquitous and dreaded catchphrase. In the verses, this Don Juan in a bandanna boasted about his insatiable libido over a cheesy Casiotone beat, but it's the chorus that really sticks in our *cabeza*: Reeeeeeeeco. Suuuuuuuave. *No es bueno*.

**WORST MOMENT** Nothing brings a dance floor to a screeching halt like the line "I'm used to good ol'-fashioned homestyle Spanish cooking/If I try that, I'll be puking."

Turning a forgettable dance tune into a dreaded catchphrase.



## 36 MASTER P FEAT. SILKK, FIEND, MIA-X AND MYSTIKAL "MAKE EM SAY UHH!" 1998

Cristal meets constipation!

A lot of ideas occur to people in the shower, but the hook for this Dirty South smash sounds as though someone thought it up on the toilet during a strenuous bowel movement: Master P and a small army of cronies groan "Unnnghhhh" no fewer than 25 (!) times here. Rapping, P mumbles, falls behind an already wooden beat and is generally trounced by the phenomenally speedy Mystikal, who tries to pump some crunk back into the sinking ship with an eleventh-hour guest verse.

**WORST MOMENT** Each hook, which sounds like the "before" section of an Ex-Lax ad.



Gerardo: "What do I have in my pockets? My genitals!"



## 35 R.E.M. "SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE" 1991

What were they thinking?

It's difficult to imagine the circumstances that led R.E.M. — intelligent, literate, subtle even when rocking out — to record this. Not only is "Shiny Happy People" an annoying song, but you also get the distinct sense that it's going out of its way to annoy you. What other explanation is there for its riff — which sounds like a cellphone ring tone chosen by a sociopath — or its lyrics, which resemble something you would force children to learn as a punishment, or the backing vocals of B-52 Kate Pierson, which defy rational description?

**WORST MOMENT** "Throw your love around, take it into town, put it in the ground, where the flowers grow."

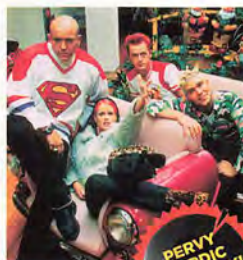


## 34 DAN FOGELBERG "LONGER" 1979

Dear Mr. Fogelberg: Why not consider a stage name?

Having trouble placing this song? Imagine you're in a dentist's chair with a 10-inch steel drill about to bore into your molars when this Muzak classic pipes in through the office speakers. The singer sounds like he could be your patchouli-scented sixth-grade history teacher, whispering politely about being in love with you longer than there have been fish in the ocean, higher than any bird ever flew. Then the violins kick in. Then you pray for the sweet, sweet relief of the drill.

**WORST MOMENT** Any musician who uses the phrase *forest primeval* with a straight face must be stopped.



## 33 AQUA "BARBIE GIRL" 1997

Scandi-wegian pedo-pop alert! Erk!

Brilliant idea: Take a child's toy, turn it into a twisted sexual fantasy ("Kiss me here, touch me there"), set it to teeth-rotting synth-pop like a robot pony kicking children to death and hawk it like Happy Meals to the under-13s. Perhaps the gambit sounded acceptable in helium-huffing singer Lene Nystrom's native Norwegian, but in English it's just plain wrong. Barbie manufacturer Mattel sued, but that didn't stop "Barbie Girl" from casting a blight on 1997. One question sprang to mind if you were unlucky enough to catch the video: Weren't they a little *old* to be doing this?

**WORST MOMENT** "Rapper" René Dif's basso profundo "Come on, Barbie, let's go party."



## 32 WILL SMITH "WILL 2K" 1999

On New Year's Eve, the Fresh Prince drops the ball

In 1999, the incoming millennium sent most rappers into doomsday mode, but not Will Smith. He was writing a celebration jam so wildly dorky it makes your local bar mitzvah DJ look like a member of the Strokes. Having jumped from 'hood to Hollywood, Smith can't make the return trip: His overearnest, G-rated rhymes about fun bob along to an unlikely "Rock the Casbah" sample — you can practically see Joe Strummer wondering if he came to the right party and inching toward the exit.

**WORST MOMENT** In the running for the Worst Pun Ever award, Smith raps, "The new millennium — excuse me, *Will*-ennium!"



## 31 CRASH TEST DUMMIES "MMM MMM MMM MMM" 1994

The worst hum in music ever

You know that jerk at your office who can burp the alphabet? That's the way Brad Roberts sings. On this 1994 single, his voice is a ludicrously bassy croak as he narrates supposed "slice-of-life" stories that land with a dull thud: A car hits one kid and turns his hair white; another's covered in birthmarks; the last has genuflecting, churchgoing parents. Sure, white hair's weird and evangelicals are weirder, but why are you telling us this? Moreover, why do you insist on humming the chorus? You sound like E.T. crossed with Barry White, dude!

**WORST MOMENT** Any time Roberts sings a vowel.

Clockwise from top left: Lori Stoll/Reina Ltd.; Anthony Cudajel/FT. Brian Rasic/ReX Features; T. Eric Monroe/Reina Ltd.; Steve Fenton/ReX Features; Henry Dizz/Corbis; David Jensen/Corbis; Outline.

# Jägermeister Music Tour

BIRMINGHAM, ATLANTA, MYRTLE BEACH, WASHINGTON DC, WORCESTER, BOSTON, NEW YORK  
D RAPIDS, INDIANAPOLIS, ST. PAUL, CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE, DES MOINES, ST. LOUIS, KANSAS  
DENVER, SALT LAKE CITY, PHOENIX, LAS VEGAS, SAN DIEGO, LOS ANGELES, SAN JOSE

FORGET

EVERYTHING

THAT YOU KNOW.

SLIPKNOT

IS REBORN

IN 2004.

Spring  
2004



Proud sponsors of the  
Jägermeister Music Tour 2004

Schecter  
DIAMOND SERIES

PERLEY

Coffin Case

Pearl

M  
MEINL

www.jager.com  
www.jagermusic.com

with special guests

FEAR FACTORY

and

chimaera

For more information and tour dates, log onto [www.jagermeistermusic.com](http://www.jagermeistermusic.com)

Jägermeister Liqueur 35% Alc./Vol. Imported by Sidney Frank Importing Co., Inc., New Rochelle, NY 10801



DRINK RESPONSIBLY

\*Cities are subject to change without notice



# 30

## WHITNEY HOUSTON "GREATEST LOVE OF ALL" 1986 "Sexual chocolate!"

Immortalized by Eddie Murphy's lascivious funk band in *Coming to America*, this heartrending über-ballad is still best known as Whitney Houston's career zenith, before the marriage and the drugs took hold. Backed by a piano and what may or may not be a high-school symphony, Whit is at her proto-Mariah overexuding best, belting out platitudes about the joys of loving oneself above all others. Truly an anthem for the '80s.

**WORST MOMENT** Picture a whacked-out Whitney and Bobby staggering through Israel in his-n'-hers prayer robes, then listen to the climactic line, "They can't take away my dignity."

Whitney belts out platitudes about the joys of loving oneself.

Whitney Houston in 1986: "What my career needs now is a marriage to a drug-addled has-been."



## 29 DEEP BLUE SOMETHING "BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S" 1995

So bland, you can actually forget you're listening to music while it's playing

Less a song than an experiment to see how mundane college rock can become before it ceases to exist altogether. Texas's Deep Blue Something matched frantic acoustic guitars to a perky melody and a lyric that re-creates the experience of being cornered at a party by a stranger who insists on telling you his romantic problems in excruciating detail: "So I said. . . She said. . . And I said. . ."

**WORST MOMENT** Has there ever been a more boring line in a song than "And as I recall, I think we both kinda liked it?"



## 28 JOHN MAYER "YOUR BODY IS A WONDERLAND" 2001

Get this man a cold shower "Ohhh," the women of the world sigh, "why can't I just find a nice guy — you know, someone who'll compare my breasts to a theme park?" Yearn no more, ladies! Drool never sounded as sweet as it does on this slow-stirred ode to daytime sex — but even from the otherwise charming Mayer, it's still drool. What's more, sunny acoustic guitars belie some creepy undertones: When Mayer rasps "Discover me discovering you" and "I'll use my hands," it sounds as though he's sitting in a dark room, playing pocket pool to a camera he planted in the women's lavatory.

**WORST MOMENT** Mayer describes the "deep sea of blankets" on his bed. *Ewww!*



## 27 EUROPE "THE FINAL COUNTDOWN" 1987

QUASI-NAZI HAIR METAL!

The worst thing to come from both the band and the continent itself

Eschewing such traditional hair-metal concerns as girl-chasing and "steel horse"-riding, this *Rocky 4* theme from the poodle-permed Swedes found frontman Joey Tempest announcing that he was off to Venus, " 'cause maybe they've seen us!" — proof that English lyrics are best written by people with a working knowledge of the language. Tempest's nonsensical caterwauling was backed by music that somehow managed to be fascist in its bombast yet also coma-inducingly dull.

**WORST MOMENT** The synth trills remind us that before they were a crappy metal band, Europe were a crappy prog-rock band.



## 26 THE DOORS "THE END" 1967

The most pretentious rock star's most pretentious song Bombastic? Lugubrious? Sounds like it was recorded in a large metal shipping container and mixed by drunks? It must be a Doors song! Painful in so many ways, "The End," for starters, has none. (OK, it's 11 minutes and 45 seconds long.) Over anemic jazz noodling, Jim Morrison intones lyrics that would make the kid wearing the pentagram T-shirt in the back row of homeroom blush with shame. For example: "Father. . . I want to kill you/Mother. . . I want to unh-grblgrauuuuuuuugh!"

**WORST MOMENT** According to online lyrics guides, that last vocal eruption actually contains the words that constitute the most appropriate response to the song: *Fuck you.*



## 25 PUFF DADDY FEAT. FAITH EVANS AND 112 "I'LL BE MISSING YOU" 1997

. . . and your platinum-selling albums. *Sob!*

A little over three months after the tragic shooting of his best friend, the Notorious B.I.G., a distraught Puffy Combs channeled his grief into "I'll Be Missing You," a nauseating brew of gloopy sentimentality and strategic-marketing mawkishness. Opportunistic? Perhaps. But how very therapeutic it must have been for Puffy to have this memorial to his departed chum spend 11 weeks at number 1.

**WORST MOMENT** The mumbling insincerity of the spoken-word intro: "I saw your son today. . . He looked just like you."



## 24 FIVE FOR FIGHTING "SUPERMAN" 2000

Musical kryptonite

In the chaotic days following 9/11, people were grasping at whatever they could find for comfort. But perhaps nothing shows how out of sorts America was than the ascendance of this turgid ballad by once-and-future-unknown John Ondrasik as this grieving nation's unofficial anthem. Maybe it was the sensitive-guy lyrics ("Even heroes have the right to bleed") delivered over Billy Joel-lite piano noodling that soothed America's frazzled nerves. But if this man is allowed to continue recording, then surely the terrorists have won.

**WORST MOMENT** Those falsetto notes in the chorus are enough to bring Osama bin Laden and Lex Luthor to their knees.



## 23 COREY HART "SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT" 1984

If you look up *one-hit wonder* in the dictionary, this is what you'll find

Over a keyboard riff that sounds more than a little like that of "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," the brooding Quebecois Hart mugged worse than Derek Zoolander as he extolled the virtues of going incognito. With its lack of anything resembling a human being playing an instrument, this is disposable synth-pop at its most bubblegum.

**WORST MOMENT** The chorus, in which Hart warns, "Don't switch a blade on the guy in shades, oh, no," was an attempt at tough-guy posing, but it made him sound like the musical equivalent of Judd Nelson in *The Breakfast Club*. That is, not very tough at all.

Clockwise from top left: Eber/Roberts; British Sky Broadcasting/Kerry Ghosh/Retna Features; Lon Sneyden/L.A. Times/Retna Ltd.; W. Reelien/L.F.I. Jeff Moore/L.F.I. Jeff Moore/L.F.I. Jeff Moore; Star File Photo; Ross Marino/Retna Ltd.

# KOOL MIXX<sup>®</sup>

DJs are the Masters of Hip Hop just like KOOL is the Master of Menthol.  
And KOOL MIXX is our mark of respect for these Hip Hop Players.

## The 2004 DJ Battle Is On. Be There.

In its sixth year, this fierce coast-to-coast battle of the hottest rising DJs is the ultimate way for you to experience the Soundtrack to the Streets.



Feel the vibe of the streets with  
KOOL MIXX Special Edition Packs.

### CELEBRATE THE SOUNDTRACK TO THE STREETS

Also experience it at: [www.houseofmenthol.com](http://www.houseofmenthol.com)  
or call 877-604-KOOL (5665) for more info.

You must be 21 years of age or older  
and a smoker to log on to this website.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**VIBE**

THE HOUSE OF MENTHOL<sup>®</sup>

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.**

©2004 B&W T Co.  
Box Kings, 17 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method. The amount of tar and nicotine you get from this product varies depending on how you smoke it. There is no such thing as a safe cigarette. For more information visit [www.bw.com](http://www.bw.com)



## Have You Written The Worst Song Ever?

Find out with this simple quiz!

### 1 What is your song about?

- A) Imagining a world in which there is no greed, hunger or war.
- B) Wanting to kill your father and fuck your mother; comparing the complex sociological sphere of race relations to piano keys; wearing sunglasses at night; going "Mmm"
- C) Building this city on rock & roll.

### 2 What is your favorite part of the song?

- A) The lines "You may say I'm a dreamer/But I'm not the only one"
- B) Vanilla Ice freestyling over the accordion solo.
- C) Any of the 874 times you claim to have built this city — built this city! Built this city! — on rock & roll.

### 3 Who do you envision performing the song?

- A) You, with emotional support from Yoko.
- B) You, Billy Ray ("the Cyrusmeister!"), Wang Chung, Corey Hart and the geezer from the bar who talks through that thing in his throat.
- C) Grace Slick and those other guys with the mullets.

### 4 Your song is most often described by critics as being . . .

- A) "Fantastic!"
- B) "Crap!"
- C) "Crap, even by Starship standards!"

### 5 For which purpose is your song best suited?

- A) To spread peace and harmony across the planet.
- B) As the snappy theme song to that new Matt LeBlanc sitcom.
- C) For being mercilessly blasted at the compounds of corrupt Central American dictators.

#### IF YOU ANSWERED . . .

**MOSTLY A):** The good news is you're John Lennon and you've written "Imagine." The bad news is you're dead.

**MOSTLY B):** The bad news is you've written a terrible song. The good news is that it isn't "We Built This City."

**MOSTLY C):** The bad news is you've written "We Built This City." There is no good news. *CLARK COLLIS*

# 22

## TOBY KEITH "COURTESY OF THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE (THE ANGRY AMERICAN)" 2002

Oklahoma redneck runs for office on Hate ticket

Outraged by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Toby Keith enlisted in the Air Force — no, sorry, he wrote a fight anthem so vengeful, it makes "The Star-Spangled Banner" sound like "Give Peace a Chance." Though right-wing radio hosts and politicians called him a hero, Keith (who hadn't had a hit in years) moaned, "It sucks ass that I have to defend myself for being patriotic." Wrong. You have to defend yourself for celebrating violence and bloodlust.

**WORST MOMENT** "We'll put a boot in your ass; it's the American way," Keith sings, mistaking revenge for ideals of liberty.

It's a fight anthem celebrating violence and bloodlust.



Toby Keith, sticking up for the underdog — sorry, the world's most powerful military machine



## 21 SPIN DOCTORS

"TWO PRINCES" 1992  
This is what happens when jam bands go pop

It's obviously unfair to dislike a song because of the appearance of the band that recorded it. Yet the very sound of "Two Princes" evokes the way the Spin Doctors looked. With its riff repeated long past endurance, dopey lyrics and abominable vocal scatting, it could only have been the work of scabbily bearded, questionably hatted, red-eyed stoners staggering out of the rehearsal room convinced they have discovered the missing link between grunge, the Grateful Dead and Jamiroquai — blissfully unaware that no one in his right mind was looking for that in the first place.

**WORST MOMENT** "Dit-dit-dit! Dit-dit-dit-a-dobba-dobba-dobba dobbal!"



## 20 LIONEL RICHIE

"DANCING ON THE CEILING" 1986  
The world's least convincing party song

Sounding suspiciously as if it was written in order to fit a video treatment rather than the other way around, this dispiritingly unfunky celebration appears literally to be about dancing on a ceiling — "People starting to climb the walls. . . . The only thing we want to do tonight is go round and round and turn upside down." Even more troubling is the thought that in the '80s, this rancidly thin stew of AOR dynamics and curiously Rick Wakeman-ish keyboards was Motown's idea of a hot party record.

**WORST MOMENT** The fake party ambience, clearly the work of bored studio employees forced to whoop and cheer.



## 19 MR. MISTER

"BROKEN WINGS" 1985  
The thoroughly nasty sound of yuppie angst

"Broken Wings" is primarily annoying not for its anodyne mid-'80s production, nor for its lyrics, which make its central protagonist sound like someone you would seek a restraining order against ("You're half of the flesh, and blood makes me whole," he sings, reaching for the duct tape and the nail gun). It's primarily annoying because it's a four-minute intro with no song attached. When the booming drums finally kick in, they announce the arrival not of a fantastic chorus or an epic finale, but the greatest anticlimax in pop, featuring what can only be described as a synth bass solo.

**WORST MOMENT** The synth bass solo.



Clockwise from top left: David Tazzyman (illustration); Mark Morrison/Reena Ltd.; LFI, BBC/IFJ; Ge Knapp/LFI



USED



CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

When you purchase a Ford Quality Checked Certified Pre-owned vehicle, Lincoln Premier Certified Pre-owned vehicle or a Mercury Certified Pre-owned vehicle, you'll get more than a great deal. You'll get up to 141 points of inspection by certified technicians and a complete vehicle history report. You'll also get 24-hour roadside assistance and 6-year/75,000-mile limited warranty coverage.\* All backed by Ford Motor Company. Why risk it? Visit your Ford or Lincoln-Mercury Dealer today for a Certified Pre-owned vehicle. It's really the safe choice.

**For a Certified Pre-owned dealer and special financing options,  
visit [www.fordcpo.com](http://www.fordcpo.com) or call 866-222-6798.**



**IF WE DON'T CERTIFY IT, IT'S JUST USED.**

\*See dealer for warranty details.





foto: Isabel Snyder

"Scrapbook for Freedom" SERIES  
TAYE DIGGS, actor

# I AM NOT AN AMERICAN

**WHO BELIEVES RACE, GENDER, OR CLASS  
SHOULD EVER AFFECT A PERSON'S RIGHTS.**

**I AM AN AMERICAN WHO BELIEVES "WE ARE ALL CREATED EQUAL,"  
THEREFORE WE ALL SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY. I AM AN AMERICAN  
WHO WILL RAISE HIS VOICE AGAINST HATE CRIMES BECAUSE  
THEY ARE THE MOST UN-AMERICAN CRIMES OF ALL.**

**I SUPPORT THE ACLU BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER  
BACKED AWAY FROM DEFENDING EVERYONE'S  
RIGHT TO EQUALITY UNDER LAW.  
KEEP AMERICA SAFE AND FREE.**

**SIGN ON AT [WWW.ACLU.ORG/BLE](http://WWW.ACLU.ORG/BLE)**



**JOIN US NOW  
BECAUSE FREEDOM  
CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF.**



Clay Aiken waits for inspiration to strike. Let's come back next week to see how he's doing.

11

**CLAY AIKEN**  
"INVISIBLE" 2003

**Bad haircut. Worse song!**  
It's not just the schmaltzy play for loser pity ("If I was invisible — wait, I already am"). It's not just the ridiculously purple lyrics. And it's not just the thought of Aiken's eternally asymmetrical porcupine 'do quivering as he soars into a high note. It's the whole hey-girl-I-want-to-watch-you-while-you-think-you're-alone-in-your-bedroom thing that transforms this song from a merely mediocre ballad to a disturbing voyeur fantasy, filling your head with images of Aiken downloading porn and thinking bad things about that girl from homeroom. What lurks in the hearts of lonely geeks? Clay Aiken knows, and it's not pretty.

**WORST MOMENT** "I wish you could touch me with the colors of your life."

**A mediocre ballad — and a disturbing voyeur fantasy.**



**10**  
**PAUL McCARTNEY AND STEVIE WONDER**  
"EBONY AND IVORY" 1982

**Racial-harmony dreck**  
See, it's a metaphor: "Side by side on my piano/Keyboard/Oh, Lord/Why don't we?" McCartney and Wonder want the races to get along as peacefully as the white and black keys on a piano — which seems unlikely, since the white keys didn't enslave the black keys for hundreds of years. The anguished idealism inspired a *Saturday Night Live* duet between Eddie Murphy and Joe Piscopo: "I am dark and you are light/You are blind as a bat and I have sight."

**WORST MOMENT** The repeated chorus at the end — where the song gets even chirpier.



**9**  
**MADONNA**  
"AMERICAN LIFE" 2003

**Desperately seeking . . . contemporary relevance**  
On which Madonna updates the "Material Girl"—era satire of commercialism and spiritual emptiness — but this time, she does it with what is hands-down the most embarrassing rap ever recorded. Nervous and choppy, she makes Debbie Harry sound as smooth as Jay-Z. The only thing worse than shouting "soy latte"? Rhyming it with "double shot-ay." The rhymes don't kick in for a full three minutes, but the song — propelled by a constipated digital beat and some bungled musings on celebrity culture — stinks the whole way through.

**WORST MOMENT** After rapping, Madonna sings, "Nothing is what it *seeems*" in a manner drained of all profundity.



**FALSETTO FUNK DRIVE!**

**8**  
**EDDIE MURPHY**  
"PARTY ALL THE TIME" 1985

**Beverly Hills Cop commits felony pop**  
Now, it might seem like a cruel satire: Leather-suited comedian teams up with Jheri-curl'd Superfreak to craft hit record. But no — in 1985, Eddie Murphy and Rick James really *did* get to number 2 with this catatonic checklist of funk clichés: the witlessly parping synthesizers, electro-totalitarian drums that are practically ready to invade Poland on their own, production mimicking karaoke night in an abandoned pet-food factory and . . . falsetto singing! **WORST MOMENT** James oozes, "She-likes-to-paaaarty — all — she — *tiime*," leaving us in no doubt about what kind of "party" he has in mind. Relax, ladies: He was on crack.



**7**  
**BOBBY McFERRIN**  
"DON'T WORRY 'BE HAPPY" 1988

**Oh, great — a bumper sticker set to music**  
Just as there are few things more depressing than being told to cheer up, it's difficult to think of a song more likely to plunge you into suicidal despondency than this. The finger-clicking rhythm, the *Sesame Street* backing and McFerrin's various accents — all different, all patronizing — are an object lesson in trying too hard. The lyrics are appalling, too: If your landlord is indeed threatening you with legal action, you should not under any circumstances follow McFerrin's advice, which seems to involve chucking at him and saying "Look at me, I'm 'appy" in a comical Jamaican voice. **WORST MOMENT** The whole wretched thing.



**6**  
**HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS**  
"THE HEART OF ROCK & ROLL" 1984

**A celebration of rock music . . . by a band seemingly intent on destroying it**  
Less a song than a craven attempt to curry favor from drunken arena crowds trained to roar on cue when they hear their city's name mentioned. Coming off more like one of your dad's golf buddies than a rock star, Lewis rattles off a list of American cities in a monotone so bland that subbing in "Bakersfield" for "San Antonio" would drive the fans wild, and hopefully distract them from the fact that the bar band-caliber music *suuuuuucked*. **WORST MOMENT** The second verse, when that cheeky Huey almost uses the word *ass*. Ah, 1984 — such a simple time.



**5**  
**VANILLA ICE**  
"ICE ICE BABY" 1990

**When hip-hop stopped being the "black CNN"**  
Making fellow early-'90s pop-rap pioneer MC Hammer look cutting-edge by comparison, the chart-topping "Ice Ice Baby" was mindless white rap for mindless white people, set to the plodding bass line from Queen's "Under Pressure" for easy move-busting. Lyrically, the Iceman recounts a trip to Palm Beach, where he is forced to reach for his "nine" by some moody dope fiends. It later emerged that this nice suburban boy fabricated his tough past and would probably soil himself at the sight of a real gun. **WORST MOMENT** "To the extreme I rock a mic like a vandal/Light up the stage and wax a chump like a candle." None of this was remotely true.



**4**  
**LIMPBIZKIT**  
"ROLLIN'" 2000

**In which nü-metal veers from disaffected rage to "Will this do?"**  
Sounding like a middle-aged man trying to fight his way out of his son's frat party using only random words of youth slang and an unconvincingly gruff tone of voice, Fred Durst dictates a light aerobic workout ("Hands up, now hands down . . . Breathe in, now breathe out") against a background of histrionic metal noise. The song is meaningless and embarrassing in equal measure. **WORST MOMENT** Being addressed as both "partner" and "baby" in Durst's drawing intro, shortly before being told, bafflingly, "You know what time it is."



AN ARMY OF ONE



U.S. ARMY

# ARMY RESERVE

It's not your everyday job.

Train near home, ready when needed. ★ [goarmyreserve.com](http://goarmyreserve.com) ★ 1-800-USA-ARMY

©2003. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.



Wang Chung:  
Chinese for  
complete crap

### 3

#### WANG CHUNG "EVERYBODY HAVE FUN TONIGHT" 1986

If this song was a party, you'd lock yourself in the bathroom and cry

Initially called Huang Chung, but in no way Chinese, London-based funk tools Wang Chung changed their name to make it easier for whitey to pronounce, thus patronizing Asia and Europe in one stroke. Musically one of history's least convivial party songs, "Everybody Have Fun Tonight" was both lyrically preposterous ("On the edge of oblivion/All the world is Babylon") and sung by Jack Hues as though he would turn to sulphur at the very thought of "fun."

**WORST MOMENT** That chorus: "Everybody have fun tonight/Everybody Wang Chung tonight."



Billy Ray Cyrus:  
achy breaky  
heart, totally  
ridiculous hair

### 2

#### BILLY RAY CYRUS "ACHY BREAKY HEART" 1992

At least the haircut never caught on. Oh, wait . . .

Country, but not as we know it. Written by Vietnam vet Don "Pickle Puss" Von Tress in the style of a brain-dead "Blue Suede Shoes," "Achy Breaky Heart" represented every prejudice non-believers have about country: It was trite, it was inane, it was big in trailer parks and it was thoroughly enjoyed by the obese. Strangely, it was covered by Bruce Springsteen, with slightly less irony than you might imagine; still, this does not make it good.

**WORST MOMENT** An instrumental break that single-handedly rejuvenated the line-dancing fad.

Starship: Mickey Thomas proposes a new vocal arrangement to Grace Slick.



### 1

#### STARSHIP "WE BUILT THIS CITY" 1985

The truly horrible sound of a band taking the corporate dollar while sneering at those who take the corporate dollar

The lyrics of "We Built This City" appear to restate the importance of the band once known as Jefferson Airplane within San Francisco's '60s rock scene. Not so, says former leader Grace Slick, who by 1985 had handed her band to singer Mickey Thomas and a shadowy team of outside songwriters.

"Everybody thought we were talking about San Francisco. We weren't," Slick says. "It was written by an Englishman, Bernie

Taupin, about Los Angeles in the early '70s. Nobody was telling the truth!"

Certainly not Starship, who spend the song carrying on as if they invented rock & roll rebellion, while churning out music that encapsulates all that was wrong with rock in the '80s:

Sexless and corporate, it sounds less like a song than something built in a lab by a team of record-company executives.

The result was so awful that years afterward, it seems to bring on a personality disorder in the woman who sang it. "This is not me," Slick remarks when reminded of the 1985 chart-topper. "Now you're an actor. It's the same as Meryl Streep playing Joan of Arc."

**WORST MOMENT** "Who cares, they're always changing corporation names," sneers Slick — whose band had changed its name three times.



**Gillette**  
**FACE** | n  
**FACTS** | o  
7

Walking to work every day\*  
can cause more sun damage  
than two weeks in Cancun.



*\*In an average year,  
The Skin Cancer Foundation  
recommends this product  
as an effective UV sunscreen.*

## Introducing Gillette® Complete™ Facial Moisturizer.

The first moisturizer  
made for men by the people  
who know a man's face best.

- non-greasy
- dermatologist tested
- fragrance free
- SPF 15

Smoother, healthy-looking  
skin in 14 days.

**Gillette** *The Best a Man Can Get™*

# LOVE Hurts

She has been called an unfit mother, a drug addict, even a danger to herself and others. Today, 10 years after her husband's suicide, **Courtney Love** is in the fight of her life, for her career and her family. "This," she tells *Blender*, "is worse than Kurt."

BY CRAIG MARKS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUDSON BAKER



Sorry, Courtney — it was the only one they had left at the giant-candy store.

CUSTOMIZED FASHION DRESS AND LIPPAINT FROM NAYNER BROS. COSTUMES AND SHOES BY AGENT PROVOCATEUR. STYLING BY DIAMOLINA, LOS ANGELES

**In the refrigerated** stillness of a limousine making its way across West Hollywood, Courtney Love raises herself from a deep slouch and locks eyes with *Blender*. “Do not forget to ask me about the picture on the cover of the fucking district attorney’s file,” she commands, “because that’s the greatest irony of all.”

It’s nearing midnight on a typically cloudless L.A. evening. In five days, Love’s new album, *America’s Sweetheart*, her fourth overall and first in six years, will finally be released. Normally, the days leading to a record’s release are supercharged with anticipation, like the night before the last day of school. The grind is over and playtime has arrived — sold-out shows, hot anonymous road sex, soul hugs with Ryan Seacrest. If a record is good — and *America’s Sweetheart* is squarely good — it should be just about the best time in a musician’s life.

But if you’ve passed a supermarket checkout counter lately, you know this is not the case for Courtney Love. Alongside Michael Jackson, who has his own parenting issues to contend with, Love has become the poster child for celebrity deviance. In the bad-behavior derby played out in the weekly tabloids, Love has left Liza Minnelli in the dust, lapped Paris Hilton, done donuts around Britney Spears. Hardly demure and ladylike even in her most neutered Hollywood phase, Love’s recent drug-splattered antics have grossed out even her most ardent supporters.

Love has lustily enjoyed her role as rock’s appointed villainess ever since 1991, when she took up with her late husband, Nirvana’s Kurt Cobain, but this time is different, and she knows it. “I’m covered with loser dust,” she admits sadly. “I can’t get anyone to lend me clothes for the Grammys. Drew [Barrymore, a longtime friend and her daughter’s godmother] won’t call me back. I can’t even get an autographed *Charmed* poster for my daughter.”

In the past six months alone, the 39-year-old Love has attempted to break into her boyfriend’s home, been arrested on two felony counts of possession of narcotics, overdosed in front of her kid, embarrassed herself with a string of rambling, unpretty courthouse appearances, been cruelly parodied by Barrymore on *Saturday Night Live*, bitch-slapped Cobain’s mother in front of reporters, burned through a Yellow Pages of lawyers, managers and nannies, been

legally exiled from her own house and been strapped into a straitjacket and thrown, in Love’s own words, into “the loony bin.”

Most devastating of all, she has lost custody, at least temporarily, of 11-year-old Frances Bean Cobain, the only child of Love and her late husband. When Kurt Cobain committed suicide in 1994, Love’s breakthrough album, *Live Through This*, recorded with her band Hole, helped shift public perception of Love from white-trash femme fatale to A-list rock & roll artist, a hero to a legion of girls armed with guitars and ironic barrettes. Now, almost 10 years to the very day of Cobain’s death, there are grave doubts that a new album can redeem her battered reputation.

“This is worse than Kurt’s death,” she says, grinding out a cigarette and stepping out of the limousine. “This is worse.”

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PICTURE IN the D.A.’s possession is a photograph taken last year after Love duetted with Elton John at London’s fabled Old Vic Theatre, home to regal productions of Shakespeare since the 1800s. It was the kind of evening tailor-made for a polymath like Love. Kevin Spacey was there. Peter O’Toole was there. And former Jumbo’s Clown Room

stripper Courtney Love was there, singing “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me” alongside an artist she “loved beyond all belief” while growing up the chubby, rootless daughter of hippie parents in Eugene, Oregon.

“You know how much I love the movie stuff,” she gasps. “You know how much I love Shakespeare. And you know how much the history of rock & roll means to me. This was huge for me. *Huuuuuge!*” We’re now seated outside, in the gardens of the Château Marmont hotel. “I’d just sung ‘Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me’ with Elton. This was a childhood dream. I remember listening to 62 KGW’s ‘620 Greatest Songs of All Time’ — this was the number 1 greatest song! I even →

“I’m covered with loser dust.”  
COURTNEY LOVE



Courtney Love and Frances Bean Cobain, photographed at Quixote Studios in West Hollywood, February 5, 2004





# JUMP START YOUR DVD COLLECTION!



X2 X-MEN UNITED  
2973709



BRUCE ALMIGHTY  
2971802



TERMINATOR 3: RISE  
OF THE MACHINES  
2971703



OLD SCHOOL  
UNRATED AND OUT OF  
CONTROL!  
2838605



THE LORD  
OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS  
2842300



THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF  
THE RING (2001)  
2719705



SEABISCUIT (2003)  
2998904



THE MATRIX  
RELOADED™  
2932705



THE MATRIX  
2622405



THE ITALIAN JOB  
(2003) SPECIAL COL-  
LECTOR'S EDITION  
3003407



ANGER MANAGEMENT  
SPECIAL EDITION  
2932408



AMERICAN WEDDING  
(R-RATED)  
3132107

**GREAT OFFER!**

**5 DVDs FOR 49¢ EACH**

**WITH FREE SHIPPING!**

**PLUS TAKE 2 MORE AT SPECIAL LOW PRICES!**

See membership details.



BAD BOYS II  
3050507



BIKER BOYZ  
2836005



8 MILE  
2800605



GHOST SHIP (2002)  
2796605



BARBERSHOP  
SPECIAL EDITION  
2780609



FRIDAY AFTER NEXT  
INFINIFILM™  
2806305



FRIDAY  
1434406



DRUMLINE  
2818201



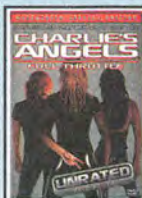
2 FAST 2 FURIOUS  
2933604



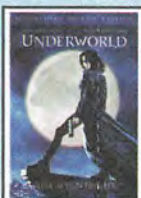
THE FAST AND THE  
FURIOUS (2001)  
TRICKED OUT EDITION  
2836906



SCARFACE ANNIVER-  
SARY EDITION (1983)  
2983302



CHARLIE'S ANGELS:  
FULL THROTTLE SPE-  
CIAL EDITION (UNRATED)  
3011103



UNDERWORLD  
SPECIAL EDITION  
3076809



TITANIC (1997)  
2224608



ICE AGE  
SPECIAL EDITION  
2761906



ALL ABOUT THE  
BENJAMINS  
PLATINUM SERIES  
2724508

1400 N. Fairbridge Avenue, Terre Haute, IN 47811-1173

28 DAYS LATER SPECIAL EDITION	3008901	BRAVEHEART	1491604	DADDY DAY CARE SPECIAL EDITION	2976603	SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: THE BEST OF CHRIS FARLEY	2908002	THE TRANSPORTER SPECIAL EDITION	2822005
DIE ANOTHER DAY SPECIAL EDITION	2809903	SAVING PRIVATE RYAN SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION (WIDESCREEN)	2411601	PHONE BOOTH	2884302	WILLARD (2003)	2973006	DARKNESS FALLS (2003) SPECIAL EDITION	2831709
BLACK HAWK DOWN	2724102	LEGALLY BLONDE	2663003	KANGAROO JACK	2822203	PLATINUM SERIES	2973006	SPECIAL EDITION	0202507
THE RING (2002)	2806701	CHEECH & CHONG'S UP IN SMOKE	0205609	CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE MINORITY REPORT	2854800	THE USUAL SUSPECTS SPECIAL EDITION	2697902	CHINATOWN	0202507
LEGALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE & BLONDE SPECIAL EDITION	2971208	SINBAD: LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS	2973808	(SINGLE DISC EDITION)	2971406	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS	2859809	RED DRAGON	2791101
MAID IN MANHATTAN	2812907	SCOOBY-DOO (2002)	2755007	BASIC	2891604	THE HUNTED (2003)	2925105	COLLECTOR'S EDITION	2791101
THE WIZARD OF OZ	2383602	JUST MARRIED	2858603	CASINO	1922707	NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE DOUBLE SECRET PROBATION EDITION	2951804	FARGO SPECIAL EDITION	2799005
FREDDY VS. JASON PLATINUM SERIES	3021300	NATIONAL SECURITY SPECIAL EDITION	2866804	WILLY WONKA & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (WIDESCREEN)	2672202	ICE AGE	2947604	INDEPENDENCE DAY (SINGLE DISC EDITION)	2971604
DUMB AND DUMBERER: WHEN HARRY MET LLOYD PLATINUM SERIES	2973105	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (2002)	2806909	BULLETPROOF MONK SPECIAL EDITION	2885309	ICE AGE SPECIAL EDITION	2761906	SEVEN (SINGLE DISC EDITION)	3086105
DUMB AND DUMBER	1374107	THE BOURNE IDENTITY (2002)	2781201	WE WERE SOLDIERS	2733806	EL MARIACHI SPECIAL EDITION	2947703	IN COLD BLOOD (1967)	0163709
TEARS OF THE SUN SPECIAL EDITION	2862605	HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE	2703502	RUSH HOUR 2 INFINIFILM	2652501	BAD BOYS (1995) SPECIAL EDITION	2478907	MALIBU'S MOST WANTED	2887107
TWO WEEKS NOTICE	2813707	DAREDEVIL (2003)	2838506	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	2999001	THE TERMINATOR SPECIAL EDITION	2660405	CARLITO'S WAY COLLECTOR'S EDITION	2986008
THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN	3051307	FORREST GUMP SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION	2634202	SAVE THE LAST DANCE	2619104			RAIN MAN SPECIAL EDITION	3065406
JOHN Q INFINIFILM™	2724409	IDENTITY SPECIAL EDITION	2962900					NBA CHAMPIONS 2002 - 2003: SAN ANTONIO SPURS	2952000

**More to choose from on other side...**

©2004, The Columbia House Company

**GREAT OFFER!**

**5 DVDs FOR 49¢ EACH**

**WITH FREE SHIPPING!**

**PLUS TAKE 2 MORE AT SPECIAL LOW PRICES!**

See membership details.

**JUMP START YOUR DVD COLLECTION!**



SHREK (SINGLE DISC EDITION) (FULL) 2971505



JACKASS THE MOVIE SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2809606



S.W.A.T. (2003) SPECIAL EDITION 3056207



THE GREEN MILE 2467009



GLADIATOR (2000) (SINGLE DISC EDITION) 2971307



XXX SPECIAL EDITION 2786101



HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS™ 2807709



A MAN APART 2891406



GOODFELLAS 0969808



FINAL DESTINATION 2 INFILM™ 2924504



THE HULK (2003) SPECIAL EDITION 2947000



SPIDER-MAN (2002) SPECIAL EDITION 2752707

Detach here and mail to:

**Columbia House DVD Club**

Dept.H7N, P.O. Box 1173, Terre Haute, IN 47811-1173  
**YES!** Please enroll me under the terms listed in this advertisement. As a Columbia House member, I need to buy only 5 more DVDs at regular Club prices (which currently start as low as \$19.95) within the next 2 years and I then may cancel any time thereafter.

**Send me these 5 DVDs for only 49¢ each**

(a total of \$2.45)

**FREE SHIPPING!**

**BUY YOUR FIRST DVD NOW FOR ONLY \$9.95 AND HAVE LESS TO BUY LATER!**

Also send my First Selection for an additional just \$9.95, which I'm adding to my \$2.45 payment (total: \$12.40). I will receive 6 DVDs and then need to buy only 4 more DVDs (instead of 5) in the next 2 years.

**TAKE A BONUS 7th SELECTION NOW FOR JUST \$9.95 MORE!**

Also send me a 7th DVD for the low price of just \$9.95, which I'm adding to my \$12.40 payment (total: \$22.35).

PLEASE CHECK HOW PAYING:  MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED  VISA  MASTERCARD  AMEX  DISCOVER  DINERS CLUB

CHARGE MY INTRODUCTORY DVDS AND FUTURE CLUB PURCHASES INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S SELECTIONS TO:

CARD # IN FULL EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

FIRST NAME (PLEASE PRINT) LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

E-MAIL

PHONE

**H7N**

Note: The Columbia House DVD Club reserves the right to request additional information, reject any application or cancel any membership. Offer valid for customers in the continental United States. Customers from Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, APO and FPO addresses and Canada, please write for separate offer.  
 Tax added in states where applicable.

©2004, The Columbia House Company C-50104-BLEND/B **39040**

**REVENGE OF THE NERDS/REVENGE OF THE NERDS II DOUBLE FEATURE**

- 3064706
- THE SCORPION KING COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2746303
- NEXT FRIDAY PLATINUM SERIES 2469203
- THE EXORCIST THE VERSION YOU'VE NEVER SEEN 2551802
- MEN IN BLACK II SPECIAL EDITION 2769404
- PANIC ROOM 2743904
- GONE WITH THE WIND 2258309
- FACE/OFF 2152007
- THE COLOR PURPLE 0630103
- OCEAN'S ELEVEN (2001) 2699304
- FINAL DESTINATION 2503407
- HOW HIGH 2739308
- THIRTEEN GHOSTS (2001) 2694305
- WINDTALKERS 2764900
- THE PATRIOT (2000) SPECIAL EDITION 2520302
- THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (1992) DIRECTOR'S EXPANDED EDITION 2692705
- LOVE & BASKETBALL PLATINUM SERIES 2518009
- LARA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2676609
- MEET THE PARENTS (2000) COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2577906
- PINK FLOYD: THE WALL DELUXE EDITION 2425205
- AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER INFILM™ 2765600
- ENOUGH 2754505

- RESIDENT EVIL SPECIAL EDITION 2741502
- STUART LITTLE 2 SPECIAL EDITION 2769800
- A BEAUTIFUL MIND AWARDS EDITION 2703403
- BLOW INFILM 2637502
- AMERICAN HISTORY X 2320604
- FULL METAL JACKET 2637205
- THE GOONIES 0608109
- RESERVOIR DOGS 2727402
- TEN YEARS SPECIAL EDITION 2294809
- BLADE 2727402
- JURASSIC PARK COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2513208
- WORDFISH 2647907
- BRING IT ON COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2545101
- MR. DEEDS (2002) SPECIAL EDITION 2762201
- THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION 1345503
- THE ORIGINAL KINGS OF COMEDY 2500704
- UNFAITHFUL 2778306
- CADDYSHACK 2469708
- 20TH ANNIVERSARY 0428908
- TOP GUN 2689206
- FIGHT CLUB 2780302
- THE SOUND OF MUSIC GREASE 2755106
- SUPER TROOPERS 2747905
- BROWN SUGAR 2803203
- QUEEN OF THE DAMNED 2748507
- SHALLOW HAL 2703106
- ROAD TO PERDITION 2789501
- HEAT 2005809

- THE SUM OF ALL FEARS SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2762300
- EXIT WOUNDS 2634400
- RUSH HOUR 2301505
- CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON 2610905
- JURASSIC PARK III COLLECTOR'S EDITION (WIDESCREEN) 2652600
- THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS SPECIAL EDITION (WIDESCREEN) 2660306
- NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER (THE UNRATED VERSION) 2747509
- OFFICE SPACE 2747806
- ROMEO MUST DIE 2495406
- SOUTH PARK: BIGGER, LONGER AND UNCUT 2420503
- AMERICAN BEAUTY: THE AWARDS EDITION 2524700
- VANILLA SKY 2719805
- ENTER THE DRAGON 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION 2208205
- STAR TREK: NEMESIS 2826709
- CHANGING LANES 2752608
- THE SWEETEST THING (UNRATED VERSION) 2748705
- HAPPY GILMORE 1937507
- BEHIND ENEMY LINES (2001) 2703007
- INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE SPECIAL EDITION 2469906
- THE FIFTH ELEMENT 2145506
- KISS OF THE DRAGON 2690402
- LEON: THE PROFESSIONAL (UNCUT INTERNATIONAL VERSION) 2497303
- UNDERCOVER BROTHER COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2781102
- BLUE CRUSH COLLECTOR'S EDITION 2781003

**JUMP START YOUR DVD COLLECTION**

Here's a great way to build the ultimate DVD collection! Simply choose any 5 DVDs in this advertisement, fill out the coupon and mail today. In exchange, you simply agree to buy 5 more DVDs in the next two years at regular Club prices (which currently start as low as \$19.95, plus shipping and processing) and you may cancel your membership anytime thereafter by contacting Customer Service. What's more, you can get one more movie for the low price of \$9.95 and have less to buy later. Plus, you can also take a bonus 7th selection at a special low price of \$9.95! See details in coupon.

**Earn FunCash™ Dollars & Get FREE DVDs!** You'll be eligible to earn FunCash™ dollars every time you purchase a DVD from Columbia House. As your FunCash™ dollars adds up, you can use it towards the purchase of regularly priced DVDs. Earn enough FunCash™ dollars and get FREE DVDs. You pay only shipping and processing.

**Free Magazine sent every few weeks** (up to 13 times a year), reviewing our Director's Selection—plus scores of alternate movies. And you may also receive Special Selection mailings up to four times a year. (That's up to 17 buying opportunities a year.)

**Buy only what you want!** If you want the Director's Selection, do nothing—it will be sent automatically. If you prefer an alternate selection, additional selections or

none at all, just mail the response card always provided so we receive it by the date specified. And You'll always have at least 10 days to decide; if not and you receive an unwanted Director's Selection, you may return any unwanted Director's Selection at our expense, and we'll credit your account.

**Membership means you're eligible for private Club offerings and special sales!** Enjoy guaranteed price reductions on hundreds of terrific titles! You'll save up to 25% on our latest releases and big box-office hits even before special offer discounts are applied!

**10-Day Review Period.** We'll send complete details of the Club's operation and your Membership Agreement with your introductory package. If you're not satisfied, return everything within 10 days, at our expense, for a full refund and no further obligation.

**Over 4,200 Titles!** If you want a movie on DVD that you don't see here, just visit our website. Thousands of additional titles are also available.

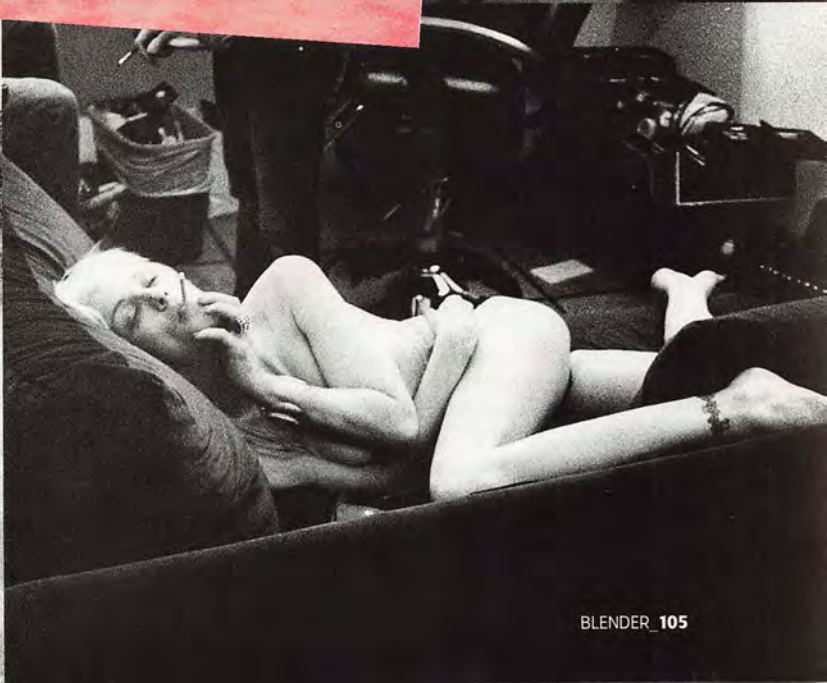
Please have your Credit Card ready when ordering toll-free 24 hours a day at:

**1-888-CHC-DVDS**

Online: **Columbiahouse.com**

**H7ND**

To ensure you get this great offer — use this Savings Code when ordering.



shoplifted an Elton John T-shirt once, and my stepfather took away my Elton John tickets. It fucked me up for life.

“So here I am onstage with Elton. I hit the right notes! I get a standing ovation from the royal family! And the district attorney in Beverly Hills has this photo sitting in my file as evidence of why I must be removed from the city streets. Why? Because my mascara’s running?”

Even in interviews, Love is a born performer, as so many narcissists are. When she was a child, Love’s parents — father Hank Harrison, a Grateful Dead biographer who now shamefully peddles books claiming his daughter murdered Kurt Cobain, and mother Linda Carroll-Barraud, an oft-married marriage therapist specializing in something called “Hot Monogamy” counseling — shuffled her from home to home, from stepparent to stepparent, even from country to country. “Considering her role models, I think Courtney’s a really good parent,” says her ex-boyfriend James Barber. “I know what stock I’m from,” Love says. “Strong and insane.” She wasn’t loved, she wasn’t pretty and she was in constant search of attention. Juvenile delinquency helped some. Stripping, too. So did rock & roll.

Small wonder, then, that Love, one of rock’s last true believers, is apoplectic about the D.A.’s use of this hallowed keepsake as evidence against her mental fitness. “Yes, I show my tits and I cuss and I’m controversial,” she says. “But I was stone-cold sober then. I hadn’t even had a glass of wine.”

It’s difficult, though, to accept at face value Love’s word on matters of sobriety. For the past year or so, her public statements have rambled and derailed in a pileup of half-completed thoughts and sentences. She appeared in court on drug-possession charges with her arms purpled with bruises. Her fractured outbursts unfortunately leave little room for interpretation other than chemical or psychological impairment.

“OK,” she starts by way of explanation, “maybe I’m a little embarrassed about the fact that I’ve been taking Xanax for five years. Morally, between me and God, I don’t want to take these drugs. But I need to. There isn’t one pharmacist, not one psychiatrist, who says I don’t need that drug. The [American Medical

With Frances Bean and Kurt Cobain at the MTV Video Music Awards, 1993



sedative. “The drug is new to me, actually. Yes, it’s a narcotic and it’s addictive, but so are Vicodin and Tylenol 3 with codeine. The problem is that some fucking fool manufactured the drug so that it can be crushed and snorted. Kids can shoot this stuff up. They can chew it!”

An OxyContin overdose is at the



Teen spirit: Love at age 16

Association] agrees. It is my inalienable right to take Xanax. And I’m about to take one right now.”

And with that, Love grabs a stack of magazines from a nearby sales rack — “Charge these to Michael Stipe’s room!”

she yells in the direction of the front desk — and excuses herself to the restroom.

One could make a very reasonable argument that Love’s long-public drug issues are no more severe or disabling than those of many of her music or Hollywood peers, but she’s just far more open about it. Two of the best songs on *America’s Sweetheart* feature memorable boasts of drug use: On “Sunset Strip,” Love roars hilariously, “I got pills ‘cause I’m blonde/I got pills ‘cause you’re dead/

I got pills ‘cause I am the worst- and best-dressed.” And on the aptly titled “All the Drugs,” she laments, “With all of my money/With all of my love/It doesn’t feel as good/As the drugs.”

Or take her assessment of the widely used pain medication OxyContin, which she’s accused of possessing without a prescription, one of the two felony drug counts she’s currently facing. Where Rush Limbaugh, another satisfied Oxy customer, practically went underground when word leaked of his pill binge, Love refuses to give an inch.

“OxyContin is one of the most effective, harmless, positive painkillers around,” she says without hesitation when she returns from taking her

root of Love’s recent troubles, which began in the early morning hours last October 2. At approximately 2 A.M., Barber, Love’s on-again, off-again boyfriend and coproducer of *America’s Sweetheart*, awoke with a start when he heard an intruder attempting to break down his door. He dialed 911, unaware that it was Love doing the breaking and entering. When the police arrived, Barber tried to convince them that it was all a big misunderstanding, but Love’s highly agitated state aroused their suspicion, and they escorted her downtown for questioning.

There, Love again tried to convince the police that being highly agitated was, for her, a routine condition. “Was I fucked up? Fuck, no!” she says. “This cop makes me take Breathalyzer after Breathalyzer. He tortures me and tortures me, and then we’re smoking cigarettes, we’re having coffee, and this motherfucker Mirandizes me. It’s now 4 or 5 in the morning: ‘You have the right to remain silent.’ I literally got on my knees and begged him: ‘You don’t understand what this is going to do to me, to my daughter, to my life.’”

What did he find on you?

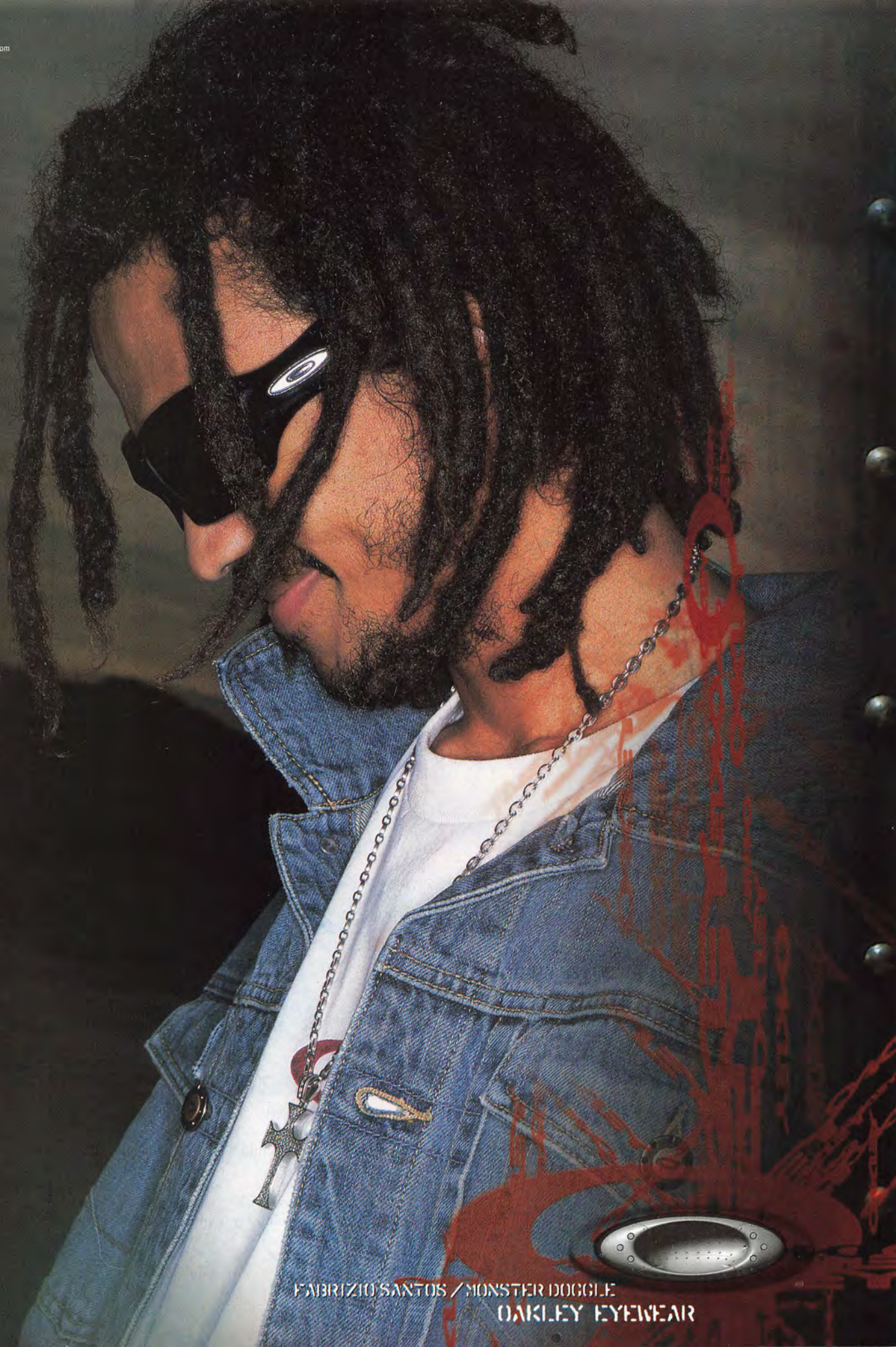
“Nothing! I had nothing on me. He had asked me earlier what I take. I said, ‘I take Xanax; sometimes I take painkillers. And that’s it.’ I hadn’t had a Xanax for eight hours.” She was eventually charged with a misdemeanor infraction for being under the influence, and released.

By daybreak, Love was “fucking frazzled. I go home and I’m terrified. I want to blunt my pain and go to sleep. You know, once a drug addict, always a drug addict.” Love alleges that she went into her safe, grabbed a bottle of OxyContin and accidentally swallowed the wrong dosage — 20 milligrams instead of two. “And I think I’m going to die.”

Love says she quickly spotted her mistake. She dispatched Frances’s live-in nanny to buy some Ipecac (which induces vomiting), and phoned California →

“It is my inalienable right to take Xanax. I’m about to take one right now.”

COURTNEY LOVE



FABRIZIO SANTOS / MONSTER DOGGLE  
OAKLEY EYEWEAR



TOP BY BETSEY JOHNSON.  
SKIRT BY PETRO ZILIA.  
FISHNETS AND GARTERS BY  
AGENT PROVOCATEUR.

↑ Courtney Love's life lesson #2,178: Never choose wallpaper while hungry.

Poison Control. Once she realized that the Ipecac wouldn't be sufficient to flush the drugs from her system, Love decided to call an ambulance and have her stomach pumped. By this point, amid the commotion, Frances had awakened.

"Frances and I were in the kitchen, waiting for the ambulance, and I said, 'Let's make some tea with caffeine in it, because I've taken some medicine that I think might make me groggy.' And we made great tea. She wasn't scared. We were up and active, and I felt, 'Let's make this fun so that she's not scared.' What parent isn't going to do that?"

*Blender* suggests that this is the moment in the story when even Love's friends can't help but shake their heads in pity and disgust.



At Beverly Hills municipal court, December 2003

"I don't give a fuck," she fires back. "This is one of the very, very, very few instances in Frances's life where the child took care of the adult. This is not our usual household. Frances is not my girlfriend. In her life she has not had to put up with my outrageously crazy shit. I am normal to her."

She simmers down for a moment. "All I know is that the proof is in the

pudding. Look at my kid, and then look at me. I raised that kid. That's the proof right there. That's all you need to know."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FRANCES BEAN Cobain is a healthy, good-hearted, engaged, by-all-appearances normal 11-year-old girl who's also the spitting image of her late dad. "She's a sweeter person than her father, that's for sure," James Barber says. "She's open and trusting. She's her mother's child."

The famous rock & roll offspring is crazy about animals — Frances has had 18 pets, including horses, and loves to ride. Her favorite subject is science. Her favorite TV show is *Charmed*. She thinks Justin Timberlake is gross: "Yuccch!" If she wrote an autobiography, she says, she would title it *The Girl Who Never Gave Up*. She very obviously loves her mom.

The day before, Frances came by the *Blender* photo shoot accompanied by Love's stepfather, Frank Rodriguez, a calm, tender, 60-year-old retired schoolteacher who is currently acting as Frances's guardian while Love pursues reunification with

her daughter. Love is allowed unlimited visits with Frances as long as Rodriguez is present.

As Mom is painstakingly tended to by a hair-and-makeup team, Frances runs over and gives her a big kiss and a hug. Talk quickly turns to this weekend's Grammy Awards. They are going to attend together — Courtney, Frances and Frank — and Frances is practically jumping out of her skin with excitement. She has brought along the dress she picked out for the night's festivities, a pale blue Betsey Johnson satin slip dress.

"Come here, baby, and show Mommy your dress!" Love cries as her hair-and-makeup attendants hopelessly attempt to keep her still. Frances pulls out the dress and anxiously holds it up to her torso. "Do you like it, Mommy?"

"I do, Franny, it's beautiful, but I think it may be a bit too sexy. Go and →

**BLENDER**.COM

**ADDICTIVE!**

**NEED MORE  
COURTNEY  
LOVE?**

FIND EXCLUSIVE AND INTIMATE  
PHOTOS AT **BLENDER.COM**

**+  
THOUSANDS  
OF REVIEWS!  
TOUR DATES!  
NEW RELEASES!  
AND MORE!**



try it on, and we'll Polaroid it." Love's eyes well with tears. "My baby's all grown up," she says. "I can't believe it."

"Mommy, puh-leeze, no more crying," Frances says.

Love manages a laugh. "She's tired of seeing Mommy cry."

"It's OK, Mommy," Frances says. "I don't have to wear this dress." For an 11-year-old, her empathy is acute: She knows that the Grammy night is not just a fun, dressy mother/daughter night out, but a crucial opportunity to show the world that they belong together, that they love each other, that their lives aren't one continuous reenactment of *Mommie Dearest*.

"Tell you what, baby," Love says. "I bet you the nice stylist here can make you your very own dress! And you can draw what you want it to look like and pick out the colors and everything." Frances lights up — what 11-year-old girl wouldn't? — and she begins frantically describing her dream gown to the clothing stylist.

"Just don't make my daughter look like some 15-year-old trying to get backstage," Love cackles. "I know that look."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AFTER LOVE HAD her stomach pumped dry at Century City Hospital, she arrived home that afternoon to find a business card in her door.

"Before my stomach's even recovered," she says, "there's a card, and Children's Services has dropped by."

This was not Love's first brush with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services — two days after Frances's birth in 1992, fueled by a

*Vanity Fair* article that alleged that Love and Cobain had abused hard drugs during her pregnancy, L.A. County successfully petitioned to have the newborn removed from her parents' care. For the first eight months of her life, Frances's primary caregiver was a nanny.

"A day later," Love continues, "a Beverly Hills detective comes by with a woman from Children's Services. I fling open the door and I say, 'No, I am not letting you in.' And I slam the door."

*That seems like a big mistake.*

"Oh, no, no, no, that's not the big mistake. The big mistake is coming up. I decide to let the woman in the foyer. I said, 'Listen. You're, like, 24. You make 400 bucks a week. You're in a \$5 million house. I am white and uneducated, but extremely brilliant. You are black and uneducated, and you're going to hate me. Go get somebody else, because you're going to crucify me.'" She rummages through her purse for another cigarette. "Now *that* was a fucking stupid thing to say."

Later in the week, on October 10, the same Children's Services worker returned. Love flew off the handle completely. "I fling open every cabinet, every closet. I find a hairy old Percocet in a plastic bag — 'Here! I fling it at her. I go into my safe and say, 'Look! Here's some hillbilly heroin.'"

By now, Love can clearly foresee what's about to transpire. "The movie is playing all over again," James Barber says.

According to a source close to the case, Love was formally charged with "caretaker incapacity," stemming from the OxyContin overdose that took place in

Frances's presence. In essence, the court alleges that Love, due to her recurring substance abuse, placed her child at risk of emotional and physical harm. Soon thereafter, Frances was removed from her school in the middle of the day and placed in the care of Kurt Cobain's mother, Wendy O'Connor.

"I died," Love sobs. "I just died." Consumed with grief and fear, Love began calling around to determine Frances's whereabouts. "I never said I was going to kill myself," Love explains, "but I said extreme things. I screamed, 'I'm gonna die; I'm gonna die!'" Her friends, concerned for her life, contacted police. "The next thing I know," she says, "there are a dozen cops in my house, and two women wearing white coats. They straitjacket me and gag me, and I'm taken away to a padded room." Under section 5150 of the California penal code, people can be hospitalized against their will if they're determined to present a danger to themselves or others.

Love was brought to Las Encinas Hospital in Pasadena, where radio personality and MTV host Dr. Drew Pinsky serves as the medical director for the department of chemical-dependency services. "Thank the fucking Lord for Pinsky," Love says. She contends that Pinsky took one look at her and said, "What are *you* doing here? This must be a mistake." Although a patient can be held for up to 72 hours for a 5150, Love was released from the hospital later that same night and managed to find her way home.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

UP UNTIL LAST year, Love and Wendy O'Connor had been on friendly terms. On the evening Cobain's body was discovered, April 8, 1994, mother and daughter-



Kevin Mazur/FIL (Love at Oscars); Alphonso Tejmonde (T-shirt still-life); Steve Cole/Photodisc/Getty Images (Hole)

## LOVE THROUGH THE AGES

The ups and downs of rock's loosest cannon



1978

A 14-year-old Courtney Love is arrested for shoplifting a Kiss T-shirt at a Woolworth's in Eugene, Oregon. The future grunge icon gives up — apparently forever — her right to remain silent.



1986

Love makes her movie debut in *Sid and Nancy*, marking the first of approximately 100 million times her name will be mentioned in conjunction with the ill-fated punk couple.



1991

Hole release their debut album, *Pretty on the Inside*, leading a wave of female-driven rock bands that includes Babes in Toyland, L7 and the Spice Girls.



1992

Love marries Nirvana's Kurt Cobain in Hawaii. The bride wears China white.





↑ Love with Frances Bean Cobain, 2004

in-law slept in the same bed, clutching each other. Frances loves her Grandma Wendy, Love says, and Love, according to sources, has bought O'Connor a house and a car. "Wendy's been on Courtney's payroll for the past 10 years," says someone familiar with the arrangement.

The pair suffered a nasty falling-out last Christmas, though, when O'Connor sent Cobain's 15-year-old half-sister, Brienne O'Connor, to live with Love and Frances. The three did not get along. Since then, Love and O'Connor have been bitter enemies, a feud that culminated in a *Springer*-like mid-October incident outside an L.A. courthouse. "Wendy came up to me and said, 'Thousands of people are coming after you. Everyone. Everyone!' She was like a crazy woman," Love



Performing with Hole in Las Vegas, 1999

says. "Saying this right in front of Frances. Right in front of the baby! So I slapped her."

Given the untenable situation between Love and O'Connor, Frances was quickly removed from her grandmother's care and placed with Rodriguez, who helped raise Love when she was between the ages of 3 and 8. Rodriguez has moved

from Oregon to live in his stepdaughter's home and supervise Frances. "Frank is trustworthy. Frank is solid," Love says.

Love's family life is not the only thing in disarray — her financial situation is equally tortured. She contends that "\$40 million has been stolen from me and Frances by a fiduciary institution." Multiple parties close to Love agree that a large sum of money is unaccounted for. A former business associate of Love's who had access to her accounts in the past six months says she's at least "\$4 million in debt," and though her spending was extravagant, that didn't come close to accounting for all the red ink. "I found out that our dog walker was making \$100,000," Love

says. "One person put a BMW on my credit card. My daughter's trust fund has been stolen from to the point where she may have, like, nothing. I can't let this happen to Frances."

As it currently stands, Love and her daughter are engaged in the process of what's known as "family reunification." "Unification, meaning no one is going to stop this. Understand?" Love says. The soonest the two can be reunited, however, is six months after the date of Frances's initial removal, or April 10. In order for that to occur, Love will need to adhere to and make "substantial progress" with the case plan ordered by Children and Family Services. This includes random drug testing, individual counseling and attendance in a parenting class. All three criteria must be fulfilled for Family Services to consider restoring custody. If, after six months, Love's request for reunification

From top: Julien Baker; Ethan Miller/Corbis; "Love Through the Ages" from left: Larry Busacca/Retna Ltd.; no credit; Alphonse Desjardins (left); Kevin Maize/WireImage.com; Lisa Rossi/Photo.com



**1995**  
Kathleen Hanna of Bikini Kill (above) accuses Love of assault after a fight during the Lollapalooza tour.



**1997**  
After an extreme (and surgically enhanced) makeover, Love unveils her new glam image on the cover of *Harper's Bazaar*.



**2002**  
Love stewards the publication of *Journals*, a collection of her late husband's private diaries. Subsequent inquiries reveal she mistook the word *private* for the phrase *in the event of my death*, to be published by Courtney at her convenience.



**2002**  
MTV executives give Love run of the channel for 24 hours straight; audiences seem to enjoy watching a blonde ramble incoherently for hours at a time. The idea for *Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica* is born.



**2004**  
While a judge debates whether Love is fit to retain custody of her daughter, America's Sweetheart is accidentally separated from the girl during the Grammys. Frances is later found in André 3000's afro. STEVE KANDELL

★ COURTNEY LOVE

is denied, she'll have the same opportunity six months later. In the worst-case scenario, after 18 months of failure to comply, the court would be forced to decide upon a long-term plan of care for Frances, which could include adoption, foster care or guardianship.

Despite the gravity of the situation, Love steadfastly refuses to admit any wrongdoing. She has never repented for any of her past behavior, and she's not about to start. When asked what blame she's willing to shoulder for her current plight, she simply replies: "Not going to PTA meetings. Not knowing how to drive. And not being the kind of mom people want me to be."

★★★★★

FOR NOW, LOVE is living in a bland two-bedroom apartment in a Westwood high-rise. "I fucking hate it," she says.

It's mid-Sunday afternoon, and Love's hair-makeup-and-stylist team have reconvened to ready Love for tonight's Grammy events. As she lies sprawled on her bed, thumbing through a copy of *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*, her manager, Janet Billig-Rich, waits downstairs, nervously checking her watch. The red-carpet festivities begin at 4 P.M., and doors to the ceremony close at 5. "The red carpet and *Blender* are basically the only press she's doing for her album," Billig-Rich says, laughing. In the past days, Love has turned up four hours late for a photo shoot and five hours late for an interview. It's now 3:45, the Staples Center is a 30-minute drive away and Billig-Rich knows there's no way Love and Frances can arrive in time for the much-needed red-carpet photo op. "She's just nervous about everything, that's all," Billig-Rich says sympathetically.

Back upstairs, Frances, in her fantasy Grammy gown, is teaching Grandpa Frank a series of dance steps for the after-parties she hopes to attend. "We're going, aren't we, Mommy?" she asks. "Of course!" Love answers. Love asks *Blender* which stars are scheduled to attend the ceremonies, and *Blender* proceeds to reel off the names. "Hear that, Frances? The White Stripes! Maybe I'll meet Jack White and he'll be my new boyfriend! Sometimes," she offers, "mommies need to get laid, too." "But Mommy," Frances replies, "you intimidate men." *Blender* then men-

"Sometimes  
mommies need  
to get  
laid, too."  
COURTNEY LOVE

tions that Janet Jackson has declined to appear on account of the fallout from her Super Bowl flashdance. "Janet Jackson was . . . inappropriate," Frances argues. "But I've shown my tits in front of people, honey," Love counters.

"But this was in front of children," Frances says with great wisdom, and with that walks out of the bedroom.

Love does indeed miss the walk down the red carpet, but she and Frances make it to the event at 5:45, and after some initial confusion regarding access for Rodriguez into an artists-only area, the night goes smoothly. Love even has her picture taken with Paris Hilton.



↑ On Fuller Avenue in Los Angeles, 2004



Performing with Elton John at London's Old Vic Theatre, 2003

★★★★★

THE NEXT months are crucial for Love. Her new criminal attorney, Ross Naba-toff, tells *Blender* he's "confident the drug charges will be resolved in a way satisfactory to Ms. Love." Love has enrolled in a pain-management outpatient program at the Malibu treatment facility Wave-length (where she already spent 30 days), and experts agree that her willingness to seek help should better her standing with criminal- and family-court judges.

Love is also scheduled to tour for her new album later this spring, and while CD sales have been disappointing, Love is one of the few performers left who can make rock & roll crackle with primitive desperation.

"I will survive this," she says. "I will rock my way out of this shit."

"If she only managed to focus her energies," says her former manager Dave Lory, who was unceremoniously dismissed by Love during the making of *America's Sweetheart*, "she would be a huge star."

"This record is my shot," Love acknowledges, stubbing out the last of her cigarette. "After this, will I even get another shot?" [BLENDER]

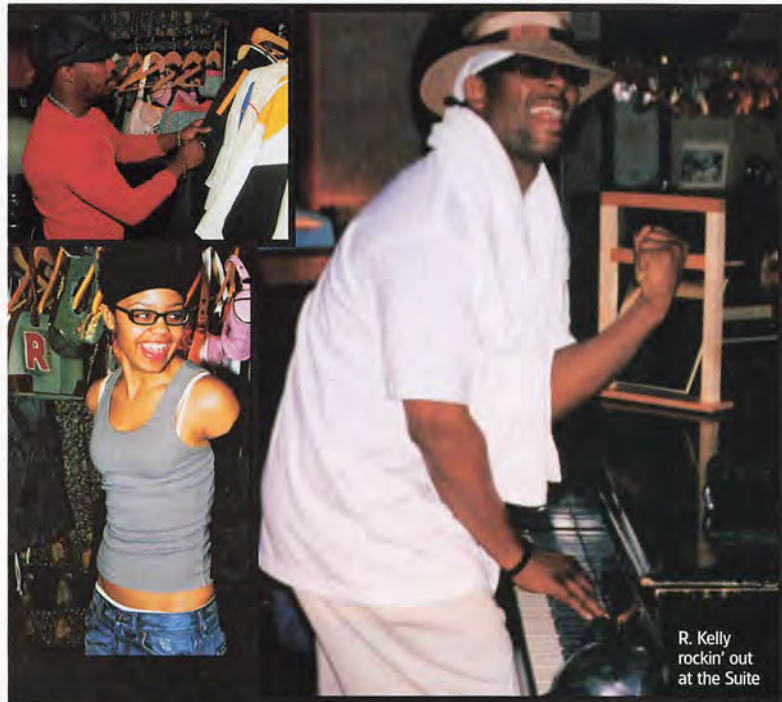
# Dry Pits Win

New AXE DRY Anti-Perspirant & Deodorant  
available in sticks & gels - [www.theaxeeffect.com](http://www.theaxeeffect.com)



# GUEST LIST

COMPETITIONS, EVENTS AND OTHER FUN STUFF WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



R. Kelly rockin' out at the Suite

## ROCAWEAR GRAMMY STYLE STUDIO

➤➤ IN LOS ANGELES during the biggest weekend in Music, Rocawear and *Blender* magazine joined the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc. (Recording Academy®) at the Oceanway Recording Studio in Hollywood and hosted the first annual GRAMMY® Style Studio. The GRAMMY nominees, performers and talent came to select the hottest fashions to wear for the 46th Annual GRAMMY Awards. Invited celebrities rushed to grab an appointment to view the latest designs from Rocawear and C. Ronson. The Style Studio was filled with surprises; R. Kelly got decked out in a Rocawear track suit and got comfortable on the piano playing some jams for the girls. In the meantime, Maroon 5 hit the racks, Hilary Duff loved her Rocawear Sweatshirt, the Black Eyed Peas grabbed all they could and Jake Gyllenhaal wasn't sure what sweatsuit to choose! *And this was just the beginning of the Grammy festivities!*



**WIN!**

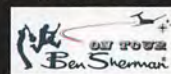
### AEROSMITH GIVEAWAY

★ ARE YOU AN AEROSMITH FAN? Well, here's your chance to add another CD to your roster. Not only will you add to your music collection, but you'll also be one of the first to own *Honkin' on Bobo*, the new Aerosmith CD from Columbia Records.

To find out more details about the release of the album and how to win, please visit [blender.com/contests/aerosmith](http://blender.com/contests/aerosmith)

### BEN SHERMAN ON TOUR

Ben Sherman and *Blender* and *Stuff* magazines left the penthouse of the Hard Rock Hotel in a shambles during MAGIC 2004, the ultimate fashion convention in Las Vegas. The theme for the Ben Sherman 2004 collection, "On Tour," allowed guests to party for three nights like true rock stars. With difficult security to get past, the Ben Sherman suite was the only spot to hit after hours. Privileged invitees enjoyed bowling with *Sex and the City* hottie Jason Lewis, hot-tubbing with Joe Francis and the Shermanator girls gone wild, and billiards with the finest heir to Firestone tires, Andrew from *The Bachelor*. Joel Madden of Good Charlotte checked out the honeys getting their groove on while jamming out to the legendary DJ Stretch Armstrong. If you were able to get past the velvet ropes, this was one of MAGIC's most memorable parties ever.



## MECCA

CLASSIC URBAN BASICS — clean basic tees, five-pocket jeans, with a perfect fit and a polo a day — for every wardrobe.

Mecca 5 Star understands the need for the basics. *Blender* and Mecca give you a chance to start your collection, with the ultimate prize:

- ➔ FIVE-PACK OF MECCA POLOS — one for each day
- ➔ A FREE BLENDER SUBSCRIPTION

You can find urban essentials by Mecca wherever you buy your Mecca gear, or get ahead of the game and enter to win a Mecca Polo Pack. Visit [blender.com/meccagear](http://blender.com/meccagear) to enter and find out more information.

**WIN!**



**MECCA**





129

**N'E'R'D\***

Pharrell Williams betrays the inner Steely Dan fan lurking within him on N'E'R'D\*'s second album

☆☆☆



140

**GUNS N' ROSES**

Making the impossible possible: a stinky GN'R hits set. Axl threatened to sue to keep it from coming out

☆☆☆



150

**BRITNEY SPEARS**

Bras! Masturbating dancers! Britney goes nuts — live!

☆☆☆

# The Guide



THEY MAKE 'EM. WE REVIEW 'EM >>

NEW RELEASES	116
CHART	134
MY MUSIC	136
REISSUES	138
BACK CATALOG	148
LIVE!	150
MOVIES	154
DVDS	156
BOOKS	158
GAMES	160

**NEW!** **183**  
**BEST SONGS**  
 TO DOWNLOAD  
 THIS MONTH!  
 SEE THE BOTTOM OF EACH CD REVIEW  
 FOR RECOMMENDED TRACKS



## HIP-HOP

A four-disc box set captures the genre in all its messy glory, p138

## HOORAY!

Clockwise from top left: Sachs/Waldman, Jon Burlin/London Features, Zach Cozner/Ernie Piccolini/Reina Ltd.

# Super Bowled Over

The Scourge of the FCC shows what sexy really means

## JANET JACKSON DAMITA JO

★★★★

VIRGIN



"THERE'S NO PLACE warmer than my mouth," Janet Jackson murmurs on her latest aural treat, *Damita Jo*. No kidding.

However Jackson may use her lips privately to pleasure her squeeze, hip-hop producer Jermaine Dupri, in her music that 38-year-old kisser conveys the secrets of an imagination that has grown increasingly sophisticated with each record. Artfully structured, unapologetically explicit, *Damita Jo* is erotica at its friendliest and most well-balanced. This hour-plus of Tantric flow even erases the memory of Jackson's clunky Super Bowl breast-baring.

At the start of her career, no one could have suspected that Michael's little sister Janet Damita Jo Jackson would become pop's mighty Aphrodite, aging less depressingly than Madonna and blowing away young rivals like Britney Spears with a gale-force giggle. The first time the former child star got nasty, on 1986's *Control* (her third album, which had six Top 20 hits), she sounded like a kid who was playing dress-up in her uncle Prince's closet; producers (and Prince protégés)

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis taught her all the right moves, but her confidence was only Lycra-deep.

Six albums into their collaboration, Jackson, Jam and Lewis have perfected a deceptively complex sound based on carefully layered rhythms and riffs, and an image that miraculously refreshes sexual clichés. Moving through various moods, *Damita Jo*'s songs touch on decades of pop-music romance, from the Motown sound that is the Jackson family's foun-

datation to hip-hop's latest throwback beats. Her lyrics, though hardly avoiding familiar sex talk, meld common exhibitionism with convincing intimacies. Making it clear that she actually enjoys both having sex and singing about it, Jackson brings bliss back to a subject that too many dirty-mouthed hotties have made tedious through overexposure.

*Damita Jo*'s between-song spoken reflections are the disc's most pedestrian aspect, as vapid as an *Entertainment Tonight* interview. (Janet likes tropical islands and finds twilight magical! And, get this, she comes from a musical family!)

Her monologues detract from the beautiful sequencing. Two- or three-song

suites glide from the up-tempo club cut "Strawberry Bounce" to the bedroom soundtrack "Moist," with a Jackson 5-style ballad ("I Want You") and a rocker ("Just a Little While") thrown in for kicks. The well-considered song order, not Jackson's silly patter, prevents *Damita Jo* from seeming scattered, even though she strays from Jam and Lewis to work with an all-star array of producers.

Luckily, Jackson's new studio pals open up her insular sound, as each shows respect for the "Janet sound" and the centrality of Jam and Lewis's cuts. Dallas Austin gives her a snappy single with the guitar-driven "Just a Little While." Babyface guides her through

a lovely trip back to his own chart-dominating days with the gentle, finger-snapping "Thinkin' 'Bout My Ex."

Though Kanye West fails to take Jackson past the generic with "My Baby" — the "urban" single released at the same time as the pop-leaning "Just a Little While" — he also guided "I Want You," one of the most entertaining moments here. Coproduced with Jam and Lewis, it's poignant, too, as Jackson seems to sympathetically describe her big brother's innocent youth.

Jackson sings as forcefully as she can there, and she still ends up sounding like a 12-year-old boy. But her lack of vocal capacity may even be the reason she has matured as an artist while her peers have generally stalled.

Unable to wail like Whitney Houston, unwilling to strain like Madonna, Jackson has instead explored all the subtleties of the whisper, relying on her mind instead of her vocal cords. With each album, she has added depth to her persona — a woman whose pursuit of desire has given her a lifetime's worth of clever ideas about lust and love.

What's titillating about *Damita Jo* isn't some easy flash of sexuality, but the varied soundbeds that Jackson and her producers create to house her love games, and the confidence with which she plays. Mature seduction in pop music? Now that's a pleasant shock. ANN POWERS

DOWNLOAD THESE "Strawberry Bounce," "I Want You," "Thinkin' 'Bout My Ex"

She explores all the subtlety of the whisper and erases the memory of her Super Bowl display.

### JANET JACKSON HER FIVE BEST SONGS (SO FAR)

**1 "CONTROL"**  
CONTROL  
A&M, 1986

The self-crowned Miss-Jackson-if-You're-Nasty explains away her quickie teen marriage and other weaknesses on this shimmering Jam & Lewis production.



"That's 10 more nipple rings."

**2 "BLACK CAT"**  
RHYTHM NATION 1814  
A&M, 1989

In a hint of Super Bowls to come, Jackson stripped to a bra in the video for this brash rock track about a bad-seed boyfriend. No sunburst, though.

**3 "IF"**  
JANET.  
VIRGIN, 1993

The emergence of Jackson as sexual dominatrix. On this grinding funk track, she spits female pimp game to a spoken-for man who'd be wise to drop the zero and get with this tarted-up hero. She sings, "I'd make you call out my name/ I'd ask who it belongs to." It's all yours, Ma.

**4 "DOESN'T REALLY MATTER"**  
ALL FOR YOU  
VIRGIN, 2001


A breathy love dedication over a lithe club-pop track, betraying a hint of two-step garage. After the libidinous car crash that was her previous album, *The Velvet Rope*, this showed Jackson reborn and gleaming.



fit for the star-crossed love tale. As the string section swells, Janet and her ex reunite "with just a little kiss." JON CARAMANICA

**5 "AGAIN"**  
JANET.  
VIRGIN, 1993

On this tale of reuniting with an old flame, she's at her most reflective and most heart-broken. Her voice is seamless, her pining tone a perfect

A black and white close-up portrait of Janet Jackson. Her long, dark hair is blowing across her face, partially obscuring her eyes and nose. She has a slight, enigmatic smile. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of her hair and the contours of her face.

Janet punishes  
her right breast by  
pointedly ignoring it.

## 50 FOOT WAVE

50 FOOT WAVE ★★★

THROWING MUSIC

Throwing Muses sibyl Kristin Hersh restructures her angst

Kristin Hersh was a traumatized teen in 1983, when Throwing Muses' nightmare gallery of songs gave voice to a legion of unmedicated alterna-kids. Subsequently, she has used elements of ambient, folk, pop, blues and metal to more broadly frame her uncommon visions. Her new band, 50 Foot Wave, strips things back — it's a hardcore trio

### THE SCORE >>

★★★★★  
EXCELLENT. A MUST-HAVE

★★★★  
GREAT. CHECK IT OUT

★★★  
GOOD IN ITS GENRE

★★  
JUST OK

★  
WEAK

recalling Ameripunk founders Mission of Burma and Hüsker Dü. The yell-fests "Bug" and "Lavender" maintain a poetic edge, but they're best as interplay, with Hersh, guitarist Bernard Georges and drummer Rob Ahlers chasing one another around tight corners. This short set is the first of several releases promised every nine months (mom-of-four Hersh has a thing about the rhythms of childbearing) and supported by heavy touring. The essentially live project should get richer with time, but this blistering first shot proves that punk moms can rock as hard as their emo sons.

ANN POWERS

DOWNLOAD THESE "Bug," "Clara Bow"

## MELISSA AUF DER MAUR

AUF DER MAUR ★★★

CAPITOL

With Hole and the Smashing Pumpkins on her résumé, saucy bassist proves more than the sum of her connections

After seven years spent playing bass for Courtney Love and Billy Corgan, Melissa Auf Der Maur is well-studied in the art of the massive ego. On her solo debut, she enlists the help of a team of alt-rockers (Queens of the Stone Age's Josh Homme and Nick Oliveri; guitarists from the Pumpkins, Hole and Marilyn Manson), but the 31-year-old's



Melissa Auf Der Maur gets the Invisible Man in a headlock.

swaggering come-ons and theatrical self-aggrandizement dominate the album's slick, goth-tinged pop-metal. Buffeted by big guitars, her thin, untrained voice occasionally sounds listless, but she nimbly navigates the jumpy, circus-like rhythm of the half-ironic "I'll Be Anything You Want," laces "My Foggy Notion" with hypnotically astrigent melody and upends the stately piano ballad "Overpower Thee" by letting her voice crack at the end.

She's in love with the sound of her own voice, imperfections and all.

NICK CATUCCI

DOWNLOAD THESE "Overpower Thee," "Skin Receiver"

## AUTOMATO

AUTOMATO ★★★★★

COUP DE GRACE

Limpbizkit for smarties: DFA-produced hip-hop sextet's debut

There are six members in Automato, and all go by their birth names. Has the world's supply of hip-hop pseudonyms finally run out? Obscure samples from vintage vinyl are an endangered species, too, so these Upper West Side b-boys make most of their music from scratch (with guidance from hot production duo DFA). "The Single" starts out with chilly, DJ Shadow-esque deliberation as a mournful synth plays off a chugging rhythm section — suddenly, a sloppy indie-rock vibe kicks in, climaxing in a ragged shout-along chorus. Lead MC Jesse Levine is a little bit street, a little bit Oberlin — but unlike many underground MCs, he doesn't use a \$10 word if it'll compromise the beat. The rest of the band follows his lead, drawing on an iPod's worth of ideas and influences but always keeping flow first.

G. BEATO

DOWNLOAD THESE "Focus," "The Single"

# HIGH FIVE

Middle-aged longhairs smoke the music of their youths

## AEROSMITH

HONKIN' ON BOBO ★★★

COLUMBIA

>> THE BACK-TO-MY-ROOTS move is usually performed with great seriousness. Your big-time rock star, perhaps compelled by a bit of writer's block, flips through some vintage vinyl and listens to the old, poor, possibly dead folks whose songs once yielded plunder and inspiration. Awed anew by their greatness, the big-time rock star does humble, respectful remakes, perhaps with some old folks as guests. And everyone feels warm and fuzzy about introducing "the kids" to the near-forgotten greats.

Luckily, Aerosmith couldn't play it that straight if they tried. Their roots move romps through old blues, soul and gospel songs (and one new original) with the crunch of '70s Aerosmith and just a little '90s polish. The obligatory elder, Johnnie Johnson (the pianist from Chuck Berry's '50s singles) splashes on honky-tonk anarchy.

Aerosmith pitch the songs to arenas, not juke joints, and lead singer Steven Tyler whoops through them with shameless glee. Aerosmith

haven't toned down their chutzpah but instead rekindled it.

When Aerosmith emerged in the early '70s, it was the endpoint of the primordial hard-rock generation that had prized the blues. Through grunge and rap-metal, the blues has been Aerosmith's ace in the hole, inspiring its double-entendre lyrics and Joe Perry's best slide-guitar riffs. For Aerosmith, the blues has meant raunchy humor and hyperbole, and when the band goes back to such songs as Sonny Boy Williamson's "Eyesight to the Blind," they're pure cocky boasts.

Tyler gets wackiest on "You Gotta Move": As the band gives the gospel song a Bo Diddley beat, Tyler shrieks and cackles about crack and welfare. There's no unnecessary reverence, so the roots move that could have tagged Aerosmith as geezers proves instead that they're still wild boys. JON PARELES

DOWNLOAD THIS "You Gotta Move"

### STEVEN TYLER'S CURRENT LISTENING

▶ JET GET BORN ELEKTRA

▶ JAMES NEWTON-HOWARD THE SIXTH SENSE (SCORE) VARESE



Aerosmith were beginning to have grave doubts about their tour manager.



## AUTOPILOT OFF

MAKE A SOUND ★★

ISLAND

On full-length debut, *Good Charlotte* and *Sum 41* tourmates mix punk and ... motivational speaking?

The guys in Autopilot Off, an emo-punk quartet from the New York suburbs, take their name from the idea that you shouldn't "cruise through life with the autopilot on" — that we should all be the captain of our own flight. Tony Robbins couldn't have said it better, boys. Singer and chief songwriter Chris Johnson's angsty whine isn't worthy of the sound system in your local Hot Topic, and it gets irritating quick. His sullen, pedestrian lyrics don't help. What's unfortunate is that the rest of the band isn't half bad — check the hairpin rhythmic shifts on "Blind Truth" or the furious melodies of "What I Want" (cowritten by Rancid's Tim Armstrong). A word to the wise: Next time, try instrumentals.

JOSH EELLS

DOWNLOAD THIS "What I Want"

## DEVENDRA BANHART

REJOICING IN THE HANDS

★★★★

YOUNG GOD

Actor-handsome boho's second album plays like the soundtrack to one fucked-up acid flashback

Like many naive bohemians, 23-year-old Devendra Banhart spent time as an art student and drifter before settling in New York City. What sets him apart is an androgynous voice reminiscent of obsessive depressives Elliott Smith, Billie Holiday and Cat Stevens. It warbles, trills and crackles in his throat, well-matched by a modest folk back-drop — mostly finger-picked guitar and warm hints of piano, bass and strings. If he has a weakness, it's that these 16 short songs — full of cryptic, evocative lyrics about "empress beards" and laughing lemon trees — wander like nuthouse monologues. But even that suits a singer who explains in one dreamy lyric that "this is the sound that swims inside me": Lost in an eerie, graceful torpor, he opens his mouth and



Mary Chapin Carpenter's hair makes its bid for freedom.

lets words seep out and linger, like so much intoxicating smoke.

ALEC HANLEY BEMIS

DOWNLOAD THESE "This is the Way," "A Sight to Behold"

## BRIGHT EYES/ NEVA DINOVA

ONE JUG OF WINE,  
TWO VESSELS ★★★★★

CRANK!

Nebraska indie stars join forces for all-too-brief EP

Winona Ryder knows it, *Blender* called it in last year's "20 Most Rock & Roll Towns" feature and this EP proves it yet again: Omaha, Nebraska, is the new cradle of indie-rock. Bright Eyes, the outfit fronted by wunderkind cutie (and onetime Ryder beau) Conor Oberst, have turned national attention to Middle America's bustling music scene with their painfully delicate, gloriously ramshackle songs. Here, they pair with a little-known but no-less-deserving local band for six gorgeous tracks. The collaboration is seamless: Neva Dinova's Jake Bellows, who sings four songs, sounds like Oberst's even-gloomier older brother (particularly on "Spring Cleaning," agonizing over the plight of a pregnant friend with a violent boyfriend), while Oberst himself sounds refreshingly upbeat; you forget that "I'll Be Your Friend" is a vicious chew-out when it climaxes with a glorious, wailing saxophone. Just make sure Winona doesn't jack your instruments, fellas!

BEN SISARIO

DOWNLOAD THESE "Tripped," "I'll Be Your Friend"

## MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER

BETWEEN HERE AND GONE

★★★★

COLUMBIA

Reflections on loneliness from a fortyish pop-country singer who learns a Big Lesson

A country singer born in Princeton, New Jersey, Mary Chapin Carpenter works between the cracks. She's both a feminist and an everywoman, and her throbbing voice expresses a comfort that's usually missing from her thoughtful, emotionally distressed songs. On her

seventh album, she's stranded in middle age, trying to make sense of a dilemma — she has a big heart, but her life feels loveless. If the comfy, mostly acoustic, fiddle-inflected tunes are pure Nashville craft, the lyrics speak bluntly about personal dislocation and loneliness. "Goodnight America" is a series of post-cards from a bleak American highway road with no directions, and "Girls Like Me" confesses lifelong insecurity and loneliness. In "Between Here and Gone," Carpenter realizes to her relief that "This emptiness is something not to fear" — a sober moment of truth.

STEPHEN HOLDEN

DOWNLOAD THESE "Between Here and Gone," "Girls Like Me"

## CASSIDY

SPLIT PERSONALITY ★★★★★

FULL SURFACE/J RECORDS

This upstart Philly MC loves beef, giving groupies hot beef injections

Known for his ferocious freestyles and knockout punch lines, Cassidy is the rare battle rapper who's adept at songcraft, too. Of course, having DMX main man Swizz Beatz (his producer and label chief) and Midas hookmaster R. Kelly (who cowrites and sings on the lead single, "Hotel") on your speed dial doesn't hurt. On Cassidy's full-length debut, the baby-faced Philadelphia MC works the titular personality split: Glossy, R&B-flavored tracks front-load

the album, while hardcore stompers bring up the rear. Cassidy seems far more comfortable with the latter, making rival MCs squirm on "Can I Talk to You," which features Jadakiss and a screaming horn section. His softer side may catch your ear, but his roughneck streak is the main attraction.

CHRIS RYAN

DOWNLOAD THESE "Hotel," "Can I Talk to You"

## KENNY CHESNEY

WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN

★★★★

BNA

More twang, less angst: Country heartthrob labors over the good life

No one works harder to take it easy than this behatted hunk of the new Nashville. On his eighth release, he works it like a yoga teacher, studiously summoning the semi-Southern

comforts of relaxation guru Alan Jackson, Jimmy Buffett and even, on the standout track "Outta Here," James Taylor. So easygoing they're like going nowhere, his

voyages to the beaches, beers and frat-house memories are easier journeys than the saccharine mountaineering that occupies the rest of the disc, especially the insufferable smash hit "There Goes My Life," in which Chesney schools his class on the acceptance of one's path, the seemingly mandatory joys of parenting (even if the pregnancy is unplanned) and the base manipulation that makes songwriting seem like a joyless exercise.

RENE VIENET

DOWNLOAD THIS "Outta Here"

## ERIC CLAPTON

ME AND MR. JOHNSON ★★★★★

DUCK/REPRISE

Longtime leading rock guitarist reaffirms blues roots, more or less

In the decades since blues-rock powerhouse Cream imploded in 1968, Eric Clapton's ingrained ardor for the blues has sometimes surfaced amid slick marketplace incarnations — notably, parts of 1992's *Unplugged* and the all-blues *From the Cradle* two years later. Now he's made this full-album homage to his most enduring influence, mythic blues singer Robert Johnson, who died in 1938 after being poisoned. Clapton, 59, certainly relishes taking the measure of "Love in Vain" and 13 additional lustrous gems from the Johnson treasure chest, arguably the richest in blues. His guitar reinvigorates age-old lines on neat and tidy arrangements, but he's even busier exploring the limited expressive range of his singing voice, and his mild success in personalizing

**ASTONISHING FACT! >>**  
While playing Moscow in 1989, KENNY CHESNEY tried to give someone a boom box — but the Communists wouldn't let him!



Devendra Banhart: "Frou-frou? Moi?"



Lenny Kravitz, lost in the canyons of his mind

# ONE BAD TRIP

Rock's most shameless magpie gets veddy, veddy serious

## LENNY KRAVITZ

**BAPTISM** ★★

VIRGIN

▶▶ WHEN IT COMES to faking it, Lenny Kravitz is one of the best. Since his 1989 Hendrix-jams-with-the-Beatles debut, *Let Love Rule*, he has liberated his classic-rock retraits from the confines of innovation and made some fantastic records as full of gumption as good taste.

But a guilty pleasure needs to keep bringing pleasure. As its title suggests, *Baptism* is meant to be a transitional record — a rebirth signaling a new maturity. Die-hard fans of his will be relieved to hear that this is not that record.

Kravitz has evolved merely from one set of retro-'70s surfaces to another, with uncharacteristically uninspired hooks. Lyrically, it's full of tossed-off rhymes ("She makes me feel good/Like a real woman should") that would embarrass any songwriter more concerned with meaning. "I don't want to be a star," he whines in a nasal melisma. "Just want my Chevy and an old guitar." And while his boast that "I got high with Jagger; it was really cool" has a jaded air that hints at irony, mostly it sounds like he wants people to know that he got high with Jagger.

Any new Kravitz record demands a round of "What's on Lenny's iPod?"

"Sistamamlover" takes only seconds to rip off a Sly Stone bass line, some lyrical ideas from Prince and the organ lick from Talking Heads' cover of "Take Me to the River." Not content simply to steal, Kravitz steals from other people stealing. Then comes the fake Joe Perry guitar solo. Rinse. Lather. Repeat.

The glammy "Flash" portrays a rock star burned out on showmanship, and Kravitz's rendition is convincing — but for all the wrong reasons. He thinks he's telling.

Actually, he's just showing.

The ballads point directly to John Lennon's *Plastic Ono Band*. "Calling All Angels" wants to

be Lennon's piercing, spare "Mother," with Kravitz moaning over minor piano chords. But as the song develops, the sentiment ("All of my life I've been waiting for someone to love") and, less excusably, the melody are insipid, less self-aware soulfulness than baleful B.S. Humility and introspection do not suit Rumpshaka McRockstar. Vacuity is Kravitz's greatest strength — next time, he should keep it stupid. STEVE BODOW

DOWNLOAD THIS "Minister of Rock n' Roll"

The humility and introspection here don't suit Kravitz.

LIKE THIS? TRY THESE!

▶ THE WALLFLOWERS BRINGING DOWN THE HORSE INTERSCOPE

▶ EAGLE EYE CHERRY DESIRELESS POLYGRAM

the material rests heavily on those vocals. More expertly crafted harmonica solos from onetime Muddy Waters sidekick Jerry Portnoy would be welcome, at the expense of unremarkable former Beatle keyboards player Billy Preston.

FRANK-JOHN HADLEY

DOWNLOAD THESE "When You Got a Good Friend," "Milkcow's Calf Blues"

## COLDER

AGAIN ★★★★★

OUTPUT

French guys discover non-frivolous disco on debut album

A four-piece band led by Marc Nguyen Tan, a Parisian graphic artist, Colder have performed with the Rapture, Underworld and other electronic-influenced bands, which means they're not computer agoraphobes. Unleashing a mature minimalism more common to visionary punks than to dance artists, Colder ignore both the severity of trance and the techno candy that overtook it; "Crazy Love" and "Where" gyrate, revolve and stretch in ways neither austere nor cartoonish. On "One Night in Tokyo," all Paris blues and Jamaican magic, or the white-hot "Shiny Star," Colder are ace strategists yet loose-limbed players. Unlike last season's dance darlings Four Tet, say, Colder's non-referential, emotionally wiry jams don't take classic rock as their model. The result is a debut on par with the music of Massive Attack, Underworld or Kruder & Dorfmeister. Colder score.

JAMES HUNTER

DOWNLOAD THESE "Shiny Star," "One Night in Tokyo"

## CYPRESS HILL

TILL DEATH DO US PART ★★

COLUMBIA

Los Angeles rap vets deliver seventh album of bilingual bong-hitting

Drugs aren't that bad; just ask Cypress Hill. B-Real, Sen Dog, Muggs and Bobo haven't let their notorious weed consumption slow them down, and 13 years after debuting, these pioneers of Latin rap and rap-rock are still hustling hard. "What's Your Number?" interpolates the Clash's "Guns of Brixton" while B-Real bar-hops and tests pickup lines with Rancid's Tim Armstrong (who cowrote the song, too). "Latin Thugs" is an excellent party jam that spotlights the unique, reggae-infused raps of rising Puerto Rican star Tego Calderon over an explosive horn sample. Unfortunately, other attempts at genre-mashing suffer from some uncharacteristically sluggish Muggs production: "Ganja Bus" is low-grade dancehall, while "Busted in the Hood" is a boring approximation of dub reggae. Live by the bong, die by the bong.

HUIA HSU

DOWNLOAD THIS "Latin Thugs"



Daft Punk model the latest French orthodonture.

## DAFT PUNK

DAFT CLUB ★★

VIRGIN

French duo's once-Web-only remixes

There's a reason why some songs are made available only over the Internet, and it's not because they're too good for ordinary record buyers. These guest remixes might have made for nice freebies in between Jenna Jameson downloads, but they don't add up to much of an album. While the 2001 source record, *Discovery*, struck a balance between dance-floor mechanics and prog-disco kitsch, the remixers here opt for either/or, so Boris Dlugosch's "Digital Love" is humdrum house and Gonzales's "Too Long" is smug gimmickry. Only the Neptunes stand between *Daft Club* and utter irrelevance. They reconstitute "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" as offbeat digital soul built around a nagging synth line and Pharrell Williams's wispy falsetto. Not for the first time, they're easily the best thing about a bad record.

DORIAN LYNSEY

DOWNLOAD THIS "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger (The Neptunes Remix)"

## EAGLES OF DEATH METAL

PEACE LOVE DEATH METAL

★★★★

ANTACID/AUDIO

Queens of the Stone Ager helps childhood pal beat devilish heartache

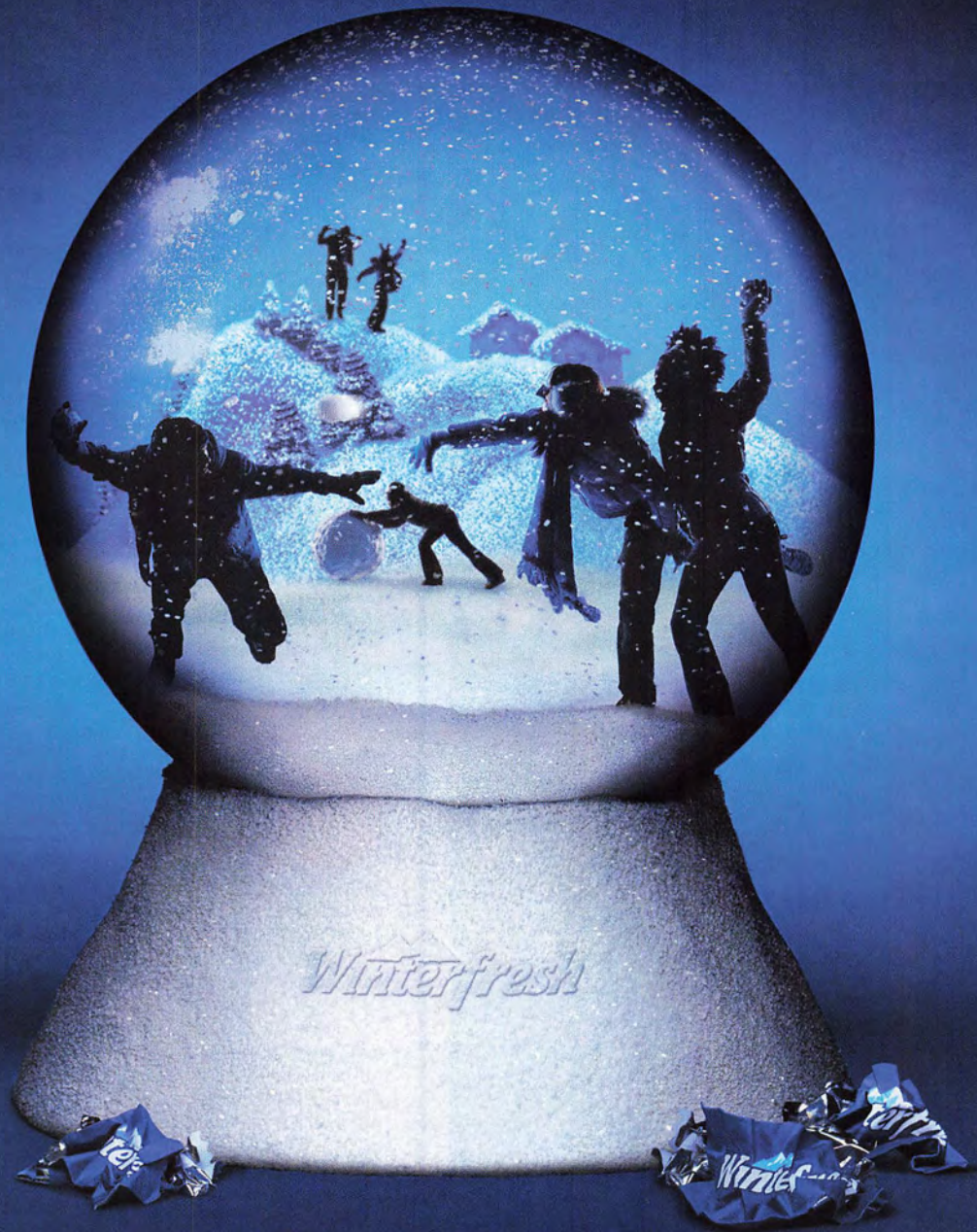
Josh Homme, of Queens of the Stone Age, has a side project: playing drums

I LOVE THIS CD!

**GILLIAN ANDERSON**  
ACTRESS ON THE X-FILES

**MADONNA**  
AMERICAN LIFE  
MAVERICK/WARNER BROS.

"I've never been a fan of hers; I've always been more of a fan of her persona. But this album appealed to me."



you in?

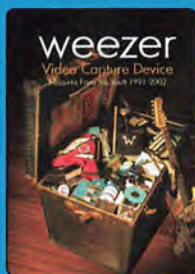


winterfresh.com

# weezer

## DELUXE Edition

- 10th Anniversary *Deluxe Edition* — 2 Discs!
- Features the hits "Buddy Holly," "Undone – The Sweater Song" and "Say It Ain't So"
- Includes associated international b-sides and previously unreleased demos
- The album will feature the artwork as originally intended and includes new liner notes
- 96k/24-bit mastered!



ALSO AVAILABLE:  
Video Capture Device  
Treasures From The Vault  
1991-2002 [DVD]

Features over a decade's worth of Weezer history including ALL the videos, never before seen live and studio footage and rare acoustic performances!

Chronicles UMe weezer.com  
A UNIVERSAL MUSIC COMPANY geffen.com

AVAILABLE AT

NEW LOW PRICE

UNIVERSAL

TOWER RECORDS  
tower.com

© 2004 Universal Music Enterprises, a Division of IMG Recordings, Inc.

behind the gulp, yelp and holler of newcomer Jesse "The Devil" Hughes, a horny guitar-hook addict who suffers one romantic agony after another. For a guy who distorts his chords as raging sonic blurs — and probably keeps the New York Dolls' second album on his turntable — Hughes is gratifyingly sincere whenever he's not tartly hilarious (dig the kooky, crunching cover of the old Stealers Wheel hit "Stuck in the Middle"). Throughout *Peace Love Death Metal*, he bleats with mighty sorrow but gets the hurt out of his system by licking evil. You know Satan? "I'll kiss his tongue!" Hughes screams. Eagles of Death Metal aren't air-quote ironic like the Darkness; they're a passionately played goof for Homme, a stunt band that's emotionally unstunted.

KEN TUCKER

DOWNLOAD THESE "I Only Want You," "English Girl"

## EAMON

I DON'T WANT YOU BACK

☆☆☆

JIVE

Twenty-year-old R&B popster writes instant-classic breakup jam, shows us why his girlfriend cheated



Tonight, boyfriends across the country will sprinkle rose petals into bathtubs, squeeze their girls tenderly and coo, "Fuck you, you ho, I don't want you back." This is thanks to Eamon's Top 10 single "Fuck It." The centerpiece of his debut, it's a breakup snarl turned into an incredibly sweet-sounding slow jam, all endearingly dinky keyboards and tear-jerk strings. If one bitch-you-sucked-his-dick? rant could become a prom-night gem, this is the one. With a reedy whine that suggests Bell Biv DeVoe's long-lost white member, Eamon isn't so vulnerable elsewhere — he's an asshole. "I Love Them Ho's (Ho-Wop)" is groupie-mongering set to an ingeniously incongruous "I Only

Have Eyes for You" loop; on "Girl Act Right," he tells off a girl who won't "behave" (read: swallow). Er, maybe your ex doesn't want you back, either.

JONAH WEINER

DOWNLOAD THESE "Fuck It," "I Love Them Ho's (Ho-Wop)"

## EVERLAST

WHITE TRASH BEAUTIFUL ☆

ISLAND

Platinum-selling wannabe bluesman and bully spits bile, weak rhymes

*Blender* doesn't remember asking for any of it, but Everlast wants to share his pain. His third album of acoustic faux-blues and plodding, mechanical beats finds the hoarse, hirsute former House of Pain frontman ("Jump Around") vindictively complaining about being dumped and offering clichéd, condescending sketches of blue-collar — or, as it's now known, white-trash — life. Over the snaking bass line and perfunctory handclaps of "Blinded by the Sun," he disapprovingly tells the story of a young woman who leaves Georgia to become a New York City stripper; in "Sleeping Alone," he laments losing an engagement ring that cost "50 grand." "I hate her 'cause I love her, so I hurt her again," he shrugs in "Angel." It's scary to hope he means hurt her emotionally.

NICK CATUCCI

DOWNLOAD THESE None

## EYEDEA AND ABILITIES

E&A ☆☆☆

RHYMESAYERS/EPITAPH

P. Diddy wanted to turn this emo rapper into the next Eminem — but he gave P. Diddy the finger

In 2000, Mike Larson rode an HBO rapping tournament to the top — and then proved his DIY stripes by reportedly turning down Puff Daddy megabucks. Ever since, the 22-year-old Minnesota battle rapper, known as Eyedea, has built a fervent grassroots following as touring sidekick of emo-rap heartthrobs Atmosphere. On their sophomore album, Eyedea and producer Abilities offer an excellent mix of brooding anti-love confessionals and heavy-hitting battle rhymes. The themes swing as violently as Eyedea's self-esteem: "Kept" and "Act Right" are cocky chest-thumpers powered by Abilities' beefy beats, while "Paradise" and the folksy "Exhausted Love" sink deep into self-loathing. "We keep our mirrors dirty in case vanity backfires," he snarls on the doubt-choked "Glass." If Dashboard Confessional had been raised on Run-DMC, he might sound like this.

HUA HSU

DOWNLOAD THESE "Kept," "Exhausted Love," "Paradise" →



Eyedea and Abilities await the arrival of a better name.

Loretta Lynn:  
"Yeah, let's turn  
this tree into a  
guitar, too!"



## DEEP ROOTS

Jack White makes over the Coal Miner's Daughter

### LORETTA LYNN

VAN LEAR ROSE ★★★★★

INTERSCOPE

➔ FINALLY, JACK WHITE has met his match. Recuperating from a broken finger last year, the White Stripes' combatant put down his dukes and pulled into a Nashville studio with Loretta Lynn. The woman who wrote stand-up-for-yourself country anthems like "Your Squaw Is on the Warpath" and "Don't Come Home A-Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)" in the 1960s brought out White's courtly side: On *Van Lear Rose*, the Detroit river rat celebrates Lynn, the pride of Butcher Hollow, Kentucky. Some country rebels want to burn Nashville down, but Lynn, pushing 70, has a better idea: She paints it red and white.

The garage-stomp flow and ragged-ass guitar are unmistakably White Stripes-issue, as White plays guitar and keyboards and harmonizes throughout. He penned "Little Red Shoes," the one song not written by Lynn, and even duets with her on the incredible "Portland, Oregon." The intro here is some of the deepest music he's come up with — a rumble in the cold, cold night that yields to a mountain fog, sounding as old as your ancestors and as new as yesterday at the same time. Then Lynn comes in,

singing "Well, Portland, Oregon, and sloe gin fizz, if that ain't love, then tell me what is, uh-huh." She's describing the kind of chance encounter you remember for the rest of your life. Whatever her age, it's some of the most gripping singing you're going to hear all year.

Lynn had country hit after hit in the '60s and '70s, a time when being a rebel girl — or even an in-control kitten like Shania Twain — was unthinkable. So she went on with her forbidden thoughts, creating a maverick persona that was loving and faithful, yet never afraid to throw down for what she had coming. The new songs "Women's Prison" (she killed her cheating man and is heading for the executioner, more in love than ever) and "Family Tree" ("I wouldn't dirty my hands on trash like you," she sings to her husband's girlfriend) embellish her legacy as a blue-collar feminist. Stoic, ladylike and underneath it all able to tame ocelots, Lynn has made a brave, unrepeatable record that speaks to her whole life. *RJ SMITH*

DOWNLOAD THESE "Little Red Shoes," "Portland, Oregon," "High on a Mountain"

LORETTA LYNN'S  
CURRENT LISTENING

ERNEST TUBB  
THE YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS BEAR FAMILY

VARIOUS ARTISTS MOTOWN SINGLES  
COLLECTION 1959-1971 MOTOWN

...THE END OF...  
...THE NEXT...  
...SCARFACE FEATURING 2PAC & JOHNNY P SMILE | BUSTA...  
...RHYMES PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE MY EYES COULD SEE | DMX...  
...FEATURING SHEEK OF THE LOX) GET AT ME DOG STREET VERSION |...  
...NOREAGA SUPERHERO... FEATURING JILL...  
...THE END OF...  
...ATIONS |...  
...NGE...  
...RS...  
...L...  
...VERSION | ICE...  
...OUT | PUBLIC...  
...LIVE CREW M...  
...FEATURING...  
...LOVE) BUDD...  
...FACE | A TRIBE CALLED QUEST | LEFT MY WALLET IN EL SEGUNDO |...  
...MAIN SOURCE LOOKING AT THE FRONT DOOR | CHUBB ROCK TREAT 'EM...  
...RIGHT | SUGARHILL GANG RAPPER'S DELIGHT SHORT 12" VERSION |...  
...KURTIS BLOW THE BREAKS EXTENDED VERSION | TREACHEROUS THREE...  
...THE BODY ROCK | AFRIKA BAMBAATAA & THE SOUL SONIC FORCE...  
...PLANET ROCK | GRAND MASTER FLASH & THE FURIOUS FIVE FEATURING...  
...ELLE MEL & DUKE BOOTIE THE MESSAGE | RUN-D.M.C. SUCKER M.C.'S

# hip hop box

...VERSION | ICE...  
...OUT | PUBLIC...  
...LIVE CREW M...  
...FEATURING...  
...LOVE) BUDD...  
...FACE | A TRIBE CALLED QUEST | LEFT MY WALLET IN EL SEGUNDO |...  
...MAIN SOURCE LOOKING AT THE FRONT DOOR | CHUBB ROCK TREAT 'EM...  
...RIGHT | SUGARHILL GANG RAPPER'S DELIGHT SHORT 12" VERSION |...  
...KURTIS BLOW THE BREAKS EXTENDED VERSION | TREACHEROUS THREE...  
...THE BODY ROCK | AFRIKA BAMBAATAA & THE SOUL SONIC FORCE...  
...PLANET ROCK | GRAND MASTER FLASH & THE FURIOUS FIVE FEATURING...  
...ELLE MEL & DUKE BOOTIE THE MESSAGE | RUN-D.M.C. SUCKER M.C.'S



Like the dynamic duo Eric B. & Rakim once advised, it's time to follow the leaders. Your musical lessons begin here.



- ⊙ THE FIRST DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF HIP HOP
- ⊙ 51 TRACKS ON 4 CD'S 1979-2003
- ⊙ FEATURES 18 #1 RAP HITS
- ⊙ DELUXE PACKAGING WITH A FULL COLOR BOOKLET FEATURING RARE PHOTOS, DETAILED TRACK NOTATIONS, AND 4 ESSAYS INCLUDING A FOREWORD BY A LIVING LEGEND

HITTIN' YOU UP ON 4/20



A UNIVERSAL MUSIC COMPANY

www.hiphopboxset.com

© 2004 Universal Music Enterprises, a Division of UMG Recordings, Inc.

PARENTAL  
ADVISORY  
EXPLICIT CONTENT

AVAILABLE AT



Thousands of Possibilities

GET YOURS



Magnetic Fields ooze charisma, cat pee.

## MISERY ME

NYC quartet led by part genius, part curmudgeon

### MAGNETIC FIELDS

i ★★★☆

NONESUCH

IF AUDACITY WERE an Olympic event, Stephin Merritt could build a gilded palace out of gold medals. In 1999, he wrote and produced the Magnetic Fields' *69 Love Songs*, a three-hour marathon exploring rock's eternal topic, and he filled at least four dozen of the songs with wit, surprise and dexterity. It was both a cheap stunt and a tour de force, and it led the *New York Times* to anoint him a "genius." With the obsessiveness of a pentathlete, he led three other bands at the same time.

A scholarly, dour songwriting gnome in his late thirties who lives in the East Village, Merritt organizes the follow-up around another big conceit: All 14 songs begin with the word or letter *J*. From "I Die" to "It's Only Time," he even sequences them in alphabetical order. Since narcissism is the essence of rock songs, *J* is the most crucial letter in music, as Merritt seems to understand.

In a froggish, deadpan baritone — ruined by Camel Lights and an adolescence spent singing along to Human League records — he responds to love with a cough and a sigh. In two consecutive songs, he

announces how unattractive he is, but he makes himself feel pretty and witty with inventive rhymes: "So you're brilliant, gorgeous and/ Ampersand after ampersand," he scoffs at an admirer.

Posing as the Unhappiest Man Alive, he savors misery as an occasion for wit; no one else finds as much humor in self-pity and despair. Combining soft, spare, strange bits of piano, cello, ukulele, drums and guitar, the four-piece band has coined a graceful style, turning away from the manic, tatty Europop imitations that followed their 1991 debut.

Merritt's also a bit of a snob, and at times, *i* turns dangerously slow and

arty, as though he's auditioning for a grant to study the Austrian waltz. But for the first time, his lethargic croak also emits a few degrees of human warmth, and the finale is a lovely ballad where he pledges devotion without a single joke or insult. It's as tender as the end of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. **ROB TANNENBAUM**  
**DOWNLOAD THESE** "I Don't Believe You," "I Thought You Were My Boyfriend"

#### STEPHIN MERRITT'S CURRENT LISTENING

THE HIGH LLAMAS  
BEET, MAIZE & CORN DRAG CITY

FLANDERS AND SWANN COMPLETE  
FLANDERS AND SWANN ANGELCITY

No one else finds as much humor in despair.

## RICKY FANTÉ

REWIND ★★★

VIRGIN

On his debut, 25-year-old D.C. native sets his R&B DeLorean for 1966



Ricky Fanté wants to be Otis Redding. Or Wilson Pickett. He'd like to turn the clock past the neosoul of '70s-influenced singers, back to raw Stax/Volt belting. Fanté's gritty temper and full-bodied attack are well-suited to the goal, but he suffers the same fate as many twenty-first-century soul children — with Jesse ("I wrote Norah Jones's hit") Harris onboard, Fanté finds a suitable retro sound, but the tunes are neither as well-crafted nor as sincere as the classics they mimic. "Smile," a mid-tempo track with a smart, engaging bridge, is the best of the bunch. Anthony Hamilton succeeds where Fanté fails, because Hamilton found a lyrical direction (celebrating his Southern roots) to match his voice; Fanté needs songs that are just as personal and distinctive, so he can reinterpret the past, not revisit it.

NELSON GEORGE

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "It Ain't Easy," "Smile," "A Woman's Touch"

## FELIX DA HOUSECAT

DEVIN DAZZLE AND THE NEON FEVER ★★★

EMPEROR NORTON

Doofy-looking electro revivalist makes dance music for people who are far too cool to dance

Before electroclash even had a name, Chicago producer Felix Stallings Jr. was introducing techno to New Wave sensibilities and Giorgio Moroder bass lines, and since then he's applied his signature sound to everyone from Ladytron to Britney Spears. Along the way, it got frayed from overuse, and *Devin Dazzle* raises the ante. Stallings doesn't just enlist James Murphy of top New York production duo DFA (the Rapture) for the fidgety "What She Wants"; he borrows their electro-punk muscle for a set of abrasively melodic pop songs.



JASON GIAMBI  
NEW YORK  
YANKEES  
SLUGGER

I LOVE THIS CD!

OUTKAST  
SPEAKERBOXXX/  
THE LOVE BELOW  
ARISTA

"They've got a sound no one else has. It's melodic and funky in a way that defies description. These guys took it to a whole new level."



Felix da Housecat watches out for Brutus da Housedog.

Though his sideswipes at the velvet-ropes set are a little tired (this just in: L.A. is shallow), the beats are unfailingly au courant, and the highlights — "Everyone Is Someone in L.A.," the princely "Devin Dazzle Theme" — transmute jaded emotions into thrilling music.

DORIAN LYNSEY

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "What She Wants," "Everyone Is Someone in L.A.," "Devin Dazzle Theme"

## GODSMACK

THE OTHER SIDE ★★★

REPUBLIC/UNIVERSAL

Grunge-metal gurus unplug on acoustic EP of new and old material

Since they're the reigning champs of no-frills, garage-days metal, Godsmack's mostly acoustic EP could have been an embarrassment: Running into singer Sully Erna without his Marshall stacks seems like bumping into your mechanic at a poetry slam. But instead, the billygoat-gruff frontman has released one of the best alt-metal throwaways since Alice in Chains' *Jar of Flies*. The darkly alluring leadoff track, "Running Blind," one of three new songs here, borrows its damaged melody from Metallica's "Nothing Else Matters" and its baroque close harmonies from AIC guitarist Jerry Cantrell's playbook. On "Voices," the band strikes a Zeppelinist balance between jangly and bitter-sweet, while versions of their modern-rock staples "Keep Away" and "Awake" (now a piano-abetted lullaby called "Asleep") prove Godsmack can keep their motor running with their instruments unplugged.

CARLY CARIOLI

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Voices," "Running Blind"

## HANSON

UNDERNEATH ★★★

3CG

Pleasing tunes from the grown-up teens who teen-pop forgot

Mmm, pop and its paradoxes. If our aging Oklahoma lads had never recorded "MMMBoP," nobody would audition their fourth studio album. But

history's most perfect pop song also set an impossible standard, even if the glitzier teen-pop that followed finally turned stomachs. Still, if you could listen without prejudice, you might enjoy the easygoing fluency of *Underneath*. There are no future standards, but no sugary returns to childhood, either. If the flavors are a little familiar, the influences are eclectic and gentle — just a hint of the Commodores' "Easy" behind the graceful title ballad and the Cars' "Drive" haunting the melancholic "Misery." Like Fountains of Wayne without the collegiate sensibility, the record stays consistently between Bazooka and the canon,

tasty and not too sweet, a way to occupy the restless ear, not without satisfactions for pop fans with aural fixations.

RENE VIENET

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Strong Enough to Break," "Underneath"

## JOLIE HOLLAND

ESCONDIDA ★★

ANTI-/EPITAPH

**Thrift-store poet sings of the weirdness of things past and present**

Traditionalism can be so boring, especially when practiced by the young. Acoustic puritans penning odes to the old folks at home need to have some of whatever Jolie Holland's drinking, because this is one Texas-born troubadour who understands that people make history, and people are often quite odd. Holland, once of the Be Good Tanyas, a Canadian old-timey trio, has been rather mistakenly compared to Billie Holiday; she's more like Jeff Buckley covering Nina Simone, turning a very modern ear toward yesterday. *Escondida*, her first well-produced release (following last year's demo-like *Catalpa*), digs into yesterday's song bag for tales of madness, morphine and ukuleles; its personal turns, in both words and



Hanson: Hey, what happened to the chick?

music, mark Holland as a woman who steers her own time machine.

ANN POWERS

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Black Stars," "Mad Tom of Bedlam"

## JACKI-O

POE LITTLE RICH GIRL ★★★

POE BOY/WARNER BROS.

**Brash Miami upstart MC delivers dance-floor vagina monologue**

Some raunchy ladies rap about their pussies for shock value. Some describe their pussies as tools, handy for separating men from their wallets.

Straight from the Lil' Kim School of Etiquette, Jacki-O casually claims to be a "whore, not a housewife" ("I'm Gone"), but she spends her sunny,

R&B-inflected debut detailing the pure pleasure her vagina affords, sensuously crooning about getting off on "Pussy (Real Good)" and "Sugar Walls." The feel-good cuts here straddle hip-hop's sweet and rough tendencies. She dedicates the jumpy, ornate "Thug Song" — featuring a vitriolic Trick Daddy — to those "tired of packin' guns." Elsewhere, over deep bass, car-crash sounds and sampled Tarzan yodels on the Timbaland-produced "Slow Down," she flows breezily about the aerated delights of wearing a "skirt with no panties." The O, we're guessing, stands for *orgasm*.

NICK CATUCCI

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "Slow Down"

## J-KWON

HOOD HOP ★★

SO SO DEF/ARISTA

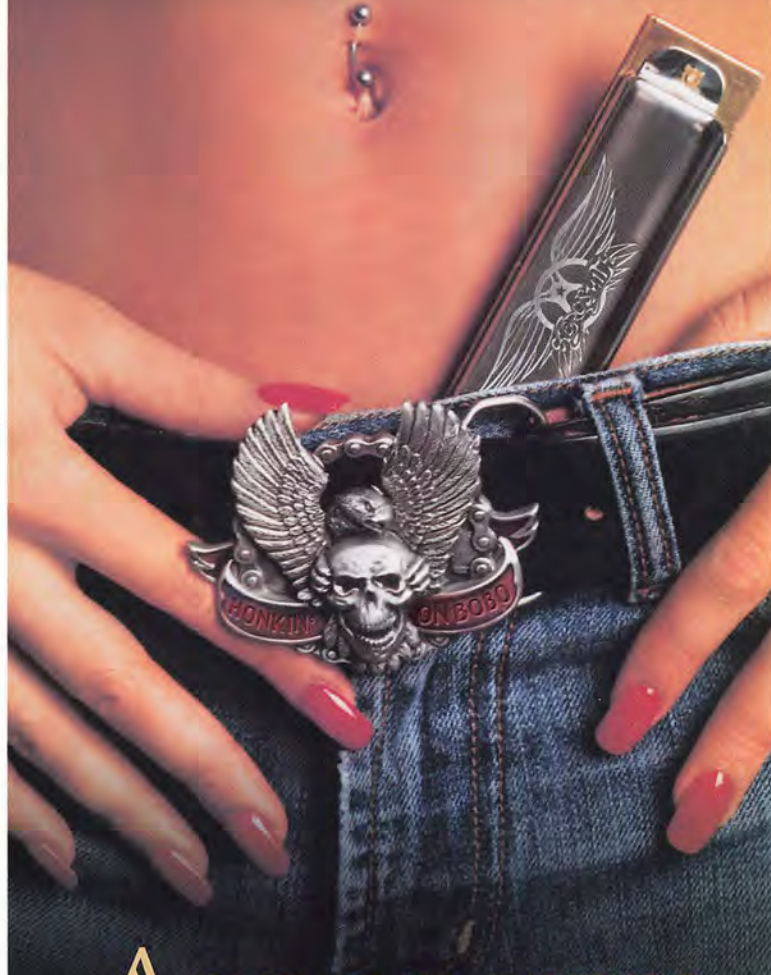
**Teen MC invades clubs with 2004's best drinking song yet**

There must be something in the sizzurr out in St. Louis. From Nelly to Chingy and now J-Kwon, the Midwest coast's rap stars want one thing and one thing only: fun. With an addictive, cavernous beat full of booms and cracks, J-Kwon's hit booze ode "Tippy" has become the best case against AA membership since "Pass the Courvoisier." On his full-length debut, 17-year-old J-Kwon (yes, he chuckles, he's got a fake ID) keeps the mood light, following "Tippy's" lead with bubbling, synth-heavy production that suggests Nelly himself. But his naked house-party anthems ("Underwear") and declarations of derrière devotion ("Show Your Ass") get tiresome quick. Only in Cristal-crazed hip-hop can wild parties sound this boring.

CHRIS RYAN

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Tippy," "Parking Lot"

# BLUES DONE AEROSMITH & STYLE



# AEROSMITH HONKIN' ON BOBO



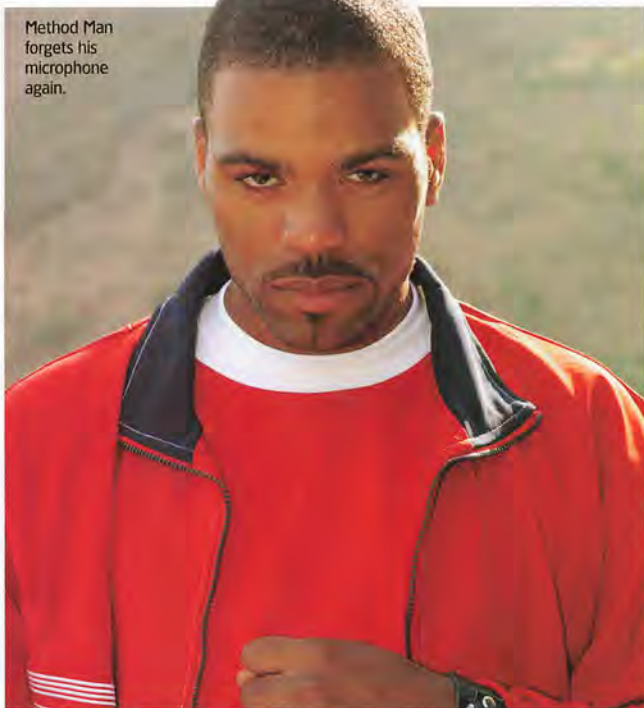
The new collection of rockin' blues classics, featuring "Baby, Please Don't Go," "Road Runner," "Stop Messin' Around," "You Gotta Move" and more.

**In Stores Now • On Tour Now**

Aerosmith.com Aerosmith.net Columbiarecords.com  
"Columbia" and "Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm. Off. Marca Registrada." © 2004 Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

Listen and Buy at [www.SonyMusicTV.com](http://www.SonyMusicTV.com)  
or call 1-800-956-HITS to order.

Method Man forgets his microphone again.



## LOST HIS WU

How High Hollywood star puts crunk in his trunk

### METHOD MAN

TICAL 0: THE PREQUEL

★★★

DEF JAM

▶▶ NO ONE — NOT Jay-Z, not Eminem, not Notorious B.I.G. — rides a beat like Method Man at his best. His voice is a marvel: smooth, sticky and dirt-flecked at once, it's like a strip of masking tape dragged across a dusty floor, then folded into ribbons.

He drops razored taunts and pop culture-filled brags, swoops in and out of grooves and fills his rhymes with tense pauses like a skateboarder planting on a ledge for a second, then returning to some ridiculous combo.

Problem is, he isn't always at his best. Playing the sly straight man (or the closest thing to one) amid eight obscurantist wackos, he's a mesmerizingly cool breeze on Wu-Tang albums — but his solo debut, 1994's *Tical*, was muddy and sluggish. *Tical 2000: Judgement Day* was fantastic but lost focus at 28 tracks.

There are some bright bursts here: On the RZA-manned "The Turn," Mef tells a rival, "Got your whole team chokin'/Like Van Gundy's coachin'"; on "The Motto," his rhymes hug one another tight: "Where the bastards at, and where they

habitats?/I send they asses back to folding sweaters at the Gap!" Meanwhile, "Say What," which features Missy Elliott and P. Diddy, nails a rowdy minimalism with just snake-charmer flutes, congas and claps; the Rockwilder-produced "Act Right" sounds like it's sampling submarine bloops.

Elsewhere, though, this album feels like surprisingly generic party rap. If the kinda-funny "We Some Dogs" (featuring Snoop Dogg and Redman) isn't enough we-don't-

love-these-ho's pussy slobber, there's also a budget twerk chant ("Rodeo," featuring Ludacris) and a pushy pickup ode ("Baby

Come On"). From the man behind 1995's Grammy-winning street ballad "You're All I Need to Get By" and 1998's vivid sex jam "Sweet Love," this is lame stuff. Between Hollywood scripts and a sitcom under consideration at Fox, maybe the distractions have disoriented Mef's genius. Or maybe the blunt-a-minute habit is taking its toll. **JONAH WEINER** **DOWNLOAD THESE** "Say What," "The Motto," "Act Right"

METHOD MAN'S CURRENT LISTENING

MAROON 5 SONGS ABOUT JANE OCTONE/11 RECORDS

G-UNIT BEG FOR MERCY SHADY/INTERSCOPE

Despite bright bursts, this is generic party rap.

### GARY JULES

TRADING SNAKEOIL FOR WOLFTICKETS ★★★

UNIVERSAL

Donnie Darko gives San Diego songwriter his window of opportunity

If the makers of *Donnie Darko* had been able to afford the U2 song they wanted, Gary Jules might still be unknown. Instead, the cult movie featured Jules's haunting rendition of Tears for Fears' self-involved 1982 hit "Mad World" and jump-started his career. "Mad World" beat the Darkness to the U.K.'s Christmas number 1 and secured Jules this release, effectively a major-label reissue of a 2001 album sold online, with two new songs. An old-fashioned, bookish singer — part Paul Simon, part James Taylor — he has a dusky, intimate voice and a weakness for overwrought lyrics, of which "There's no poetry between us, said the paper to the pen" is the worst offender. The exquisite "Mad World," coming at the end, casts a long shadow.

DORIAN LYNSEY

DOWNLOAD THESE "Mad World," "DTLA"

#### ASTONISHING FACT! >>

To earn extra scratch, METHOD MAN used to steal lollipops from his job and sell them at school.

terms don't mean a fuckin' thing." But Jon Langford isn't flipping off his audience, which he's blessed with life lessons and rallying cries for a quarter-century, starting with his stalwart role in England's cowpunk greats the Mekons. These mini-country-rock masterpieces, which masquerade as minimalist sketches, attack cutthroat capitalism's notion of achievement. Langford's half-croon, half-snarl fills the rough-hewn, fast-shuffling numbers with rude, waggish poetics: The twangy "Sputnik 57" spotlights the "poor" and "doomed" who lived beneath the Russian satellite's orbit, while the piano-and-guitar ballad "The Country Is Young" imagines imperial America as a petulant baby too big for its britches. Trust him — he has bought

diapers for two of his own.

NICK CATUCCI

DOWNLOAD THESE "The Country Is Young," "Hard Times"

### LIL' FLIP

U GOTTA FEEL ME ★★★

SUCKA FREE/COLUMBIA

Third album from David Banner-endorsed dirty boy

Lil' Flip's charisma lies in his exceedingly laid-back cadence, a woozy molasses drawl inspired by the slow-motion remixes of his late mentor DJ Screw. Fresh off the platinum sales of his major-label debut, 2002's *Undaground Legend*, Flip makes a bid for the mainstream with his latest, supplementing deep country grammar ("Represent," featuring unapologetic Southerners Three 6 Mafia and David Banner) with stabs at prose from other area codes. Not all his audience-expanding experiments work (the meandering "Y'all Don't Want It," with New York's bombastic Diplomats), but on "All I Know," featuring Cam'ron, Flip flows expertly across a caustic piano melody. Even better are the reggae-fied "Check (Let's Ride)" and the lead single, "Game Over," powered by Pac-Man arcade blips. Call this crunk without borders.

CHAIRMAN MAO

DOWNLOAD THESE "Game Over," "All I Know"

### LOLA RAY

I DON'T KNOW YOU ★★★

DC FLAG/RED INK

Good Charlotte's NYC homies

Lola Ray are the premier act of DC Flag, the new label from Good Charlotte Bros. Joel and Benji Madden — but don't think they're just another bad pop-punk knockoff. Quite the contrary, they're actually a pretty decent pop-punk knockoff. On their accomplished debut, the New York-via-Orange County foursome pull off what even their bosses often can't, combining

### DIANA KRALL

THE GIRL IN THE OTHER ROOM

★★★

VERVE

Snoozy Canadian jazz phenom collaborates with august hubby Elvis Costello

At her best, Diana Krall is the sultry heir to '50s and '60s pop-jazz singers Nat "King" Cole and Peggy Lee, who defined the term *laid-back* before it was popularized. But this transitional album, whose heart consists of six original collaborations with her new husband, Elvis Costello (she wrote the music, they cowrote the lyrics), leaps into the void. For all their craft, the songs are bland and vague, as though Costello assumed that his cleverness and fondness for meaningless internal rhymes could substitute for depth. Among the tastefully selected non-originals (none the kind of pre-rock standards Krall does so beautifully), the biggest disappointment is a clueless rendition of Joni Mitchell's scary jazz cry "Black Crow" that strips the song of its terror and mystery.

STEPHEN HOLDEN

DOWNLOAD THIS "Stop This World"

### JON LANGFORD

ALL THE FAME OF LOFTY DEEDS

★★★★

BLOODSHOT

Prolific alt-country godfather's State of the Union address

It's usually best to run from entertainers who spit, "Success on someone else's





Jon Langford tells his I-met-the-Pope story.

bittersweet melodies with swagger and unblinking conviction. This is largely thanks to singer John Balicanta, who slithers chameleonlike from sexy (the strutting "Automatic Girl") to fragile (the back-seat anthem "Charlit Movie Star") to pissed-off (the Strokes-y "What It Feels Like"). The coup is that he's never whiny — and more importantly, never dull. Maybe Joel and Benji should be taking notes.

JOSH EELLS

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "What It Feels Like," "Automatic Girl"

## LOS LOBOS

### THE RIDE ★★★

HOLLYWOOD/MAMMOTH

**Way-cool guest list beefs up L.A. band's latest stylistic smorgasbord**

If Los Lobos ruled the universe, music would have no boundaries: Country would boogie with R&B, British maritime balladry would line-dance with exploitation-era soul and L.A. punk would slam against avant-garde experimentation. It all comes together on *The Ride*, their guest star-laden twelfth album, a sort of career recap celebrating the twentieth anniversary of their major-label debut, *How Will the Wolf Survive?* Tom Waits clatters and growls through a Mexican-flavored rant called "Kitate"; Bobby Womack remakes his early-'70s blaxploitation classic "Across 110th Street" as a medley with Los Lobos's "Wicked Rain"; and Mavis Staples adds gospel fire to "Someday." Richard Thompson, Rubén Blades, Dave Alvin and Cafe Tacuba also stop by, making up a virtual United Nations

of illustrious musicians. Sometimes the tone is self-congratulatory, but a house band this glorious deserves some kind of standing ovation.

KAREN SCHOEMER

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Rita," "Somewhere in Time" (featuring Dave Alvin)

## MADVILLAIN

### MADVILLAINY ★★★

STONES THROW

**Less is more on progressive hip-hop supergroup's debut**

MF Doom raps like Dr. Seuss turned b-boy. On "Rhinestone Cowboy," the London-born MC says he's "known as the grimy limey/Try me/Slimey/Blimey!/Simply smashing in the fashion that's timely/Madvillain dashin' in a beat-rhyme crime spree." His manic flow has made him an underground hero, and here he joins forces with another of the genre's stars, producer Madlib. They've made a torrid album that marries old-school rap aesthetics to punk-rock concision: brute battle rhymes that fly by without choruses, punch lines every four bars, 22 tracks in 46 minutes. Madlib mixes jazz loops with stranger sounds: a rumbling piano sample, a lurching accordion straight outta Montmartre and the woozy, helium-voiced raps of Madlib's alter ego, Quasimoto. Cartoonish and warped, this is rap seen through a funhouse mirror.

JODY ROSEN

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Accordion," "America's Most Blunted," "Money Folder"

## DAVID MEAD

### INDIANA ★★★

NETWORK AMERICA

**On third album, lonely troubadour goes back home, gets lonelier**

After 2001's pop-flavored *Mine and Yours*, crooner David Mead was dropped by his label and moved from New York back to his hometown of Nashville. The Indiana of the CD title represents the home stretch for that road trip; naturally, Mead's Indiana sounds weary but ready for rebirth. Dreamy and contemplative, struggling between disappointment and hope,

the **only** cigarettes  
made with  
**100% certified  
organic tobacco**



available in  
regulars or lights

**100% additive-free natural tobacco  
certified under USDA standards**

**100% U.S. Grown Tobacco**

**For a sample carton offer  
call 1-800-872-6460 ext 38006.**

No additives in our tobacco  
does **NOT** mean a safer cigarette.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking  
By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal  
Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.**

SMOKING "LIGHT" FILTERED CIGARETTES DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE HEALTH RISKS OF SMOKING.  
Actual levels of tar and nicotine experienced by the smoker may vary widely depending on how you smoke.  
For more information, see www.nascigs.com

Natural American Spirit® is a registered trademark of Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company.  
Offer restricted to smokers 21 years of age or older. Limit one sample carton per person per year (12 months). Shipping & Handling charges may apply.

© SFNTC 2

**I LOVE THIS CD!**

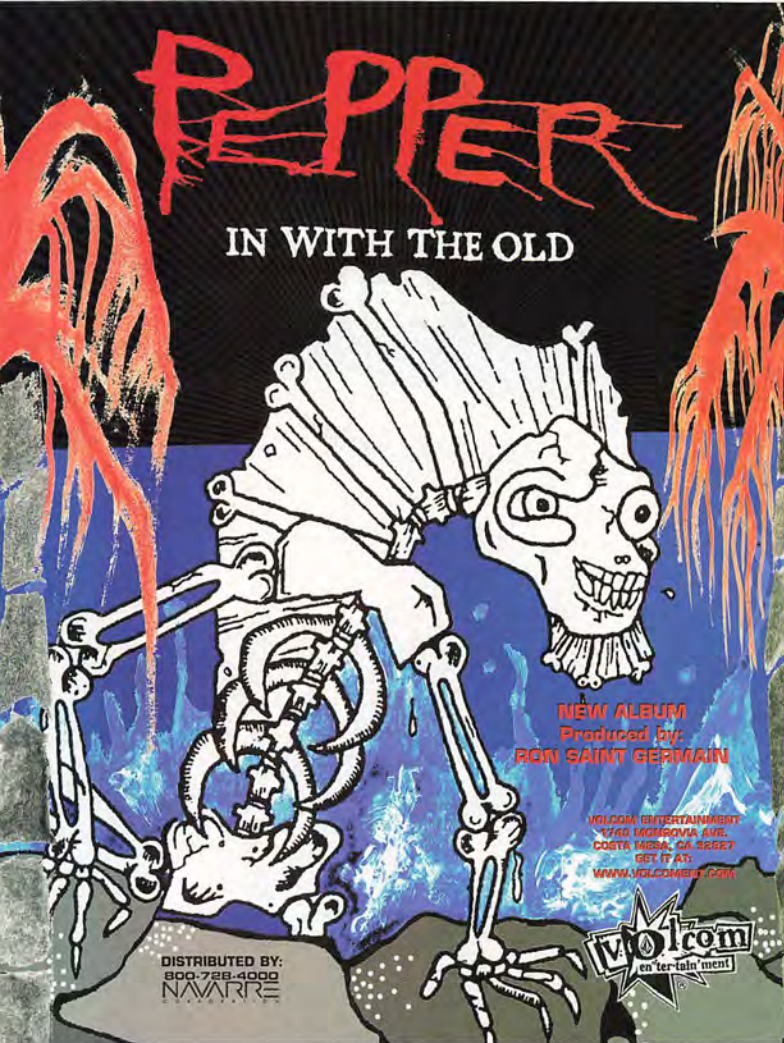


**STANLEY TUCCI**  
ACTOR IN  
*THE TERMINAL*



**DIANA KRALL**  
LIVE IN PARIS  
VERVE

**"She's really great with the audience, her voice is fantastic and her piano playing is extraordinary."**



# PEPPER

IN WITH THE OLD

NEW ALBUM  
Produced by:  
RON SAINT GERMAIN

VOLCOM ENTERTAINMENT  
1740 KOGARUA AVE.  
COSTA MESA, CA 92626  
GET IT AT:  
WWW.VOLCOMBUY.COM



DISTRIBUTED BY:  
800-728-4000  
NAVARRE



“Earth-shattering, life-saving: the UK rock record of the year.” –NME

“Absolution is something that few bands will top this year.” –Q

Featuring

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT



# MUSE

# ABSOLUTION

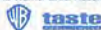
IN STORES NOW

available at



www.muse.mu  
www.warnerbrosrecords.com

Warner Bros. Records Inc. ©2003 Taste Media Ltd. under exclusive license to Warner Bros. Records Inc. for the U.S.



this is the breakup record Beck's *Sea Change* should have been. Mead, his voice more expressive (and higher) than ever, crawls toward Music City defeated, having left behind relationships (“Only a Girl”), ambitions (“Ordinary Life”) and his sense of self (“You Might See Him”). But disillusionment has gifted him with maturity and wry humor — he even makes Indiana native Michael Jackson’s “Human Nature” fit comfortably among these cowboy ballads.

JAMES HANNAHAM

DOWNLOAD THESE “Ordinary Life,” “Beauty,” “Human Nature”

## CHRISTINA MILIAN

IT'S ABOUT TIME ★★

ISLAND

Ja Rule-ordained Latina hip-pop princess wants you to “dip it low” on ho-hum second album

She generated buzz from “Between Me and You,” a smash duet with Ja Rule, from the chart-topper she wrote for Jennifer Lopez (“Play”) and even from having a Stateside hit single, “AM to PM,” but still, this 22-year-old Cuban-American hottie never got a U.S. release for the 2001 debut that made her a worldwide pinup. So with Latina crossovers all over the charts, is it Milian’s time? Not yet. Her previous efforts pulsed with teen-dream exuberance, but her latest is far too grown-up; as sometimes happens, maturity here is synonymous with boring. The album offers up crassly professional R&B-lite as artistic progress, with the ersatz-dancehall workout “Hands on Me” and the faux-Bollywood club track “Dip It Low” revealing Milian as a wanna-Beyoncé. Not so much crazy in love as sanely in like, this American debut remains too safe at any speed.

MATT DIEHL

DOWNLOAD THESE None

## MISSION OF BURMA

ONOFFON ★★★

MATADOR

Hallowed Boston experimentalists reunite, end 19 years of silence

Bassist Clint Conley likens Mission of Burma’s sound to “chewing gravel” —

and he wrote the catchiest songs ever recorded by this four-piece collective of post-punk Puritans. After expiring in 1983, they were covered by Moby and R.E.M., and granted the exaggerated praise that now comes, tardily, to all rock prophets without profit. On this reunion, MOB are more gnarled and knotted than ever; behind martial stomps, they grind together two-chord riffs like flints, making rigorously unpretty soundstorms. Feverish and bruised, dense as chowder, the songs describe danger and alienation (“I’m high as a kite on a windless night”) in distressed voices. It’s the genesis of their heroism: No other band burrows so deeply into disorientation.

ROB TANNENBAUM

DOWNLOAD THESE “Wounded World,” “Dirt”

## MISS KITTIN

I COM ★★★

ASTRALWERKS

French techno vamp makes like a robot on solo debut



Outside of Brooklyn’s hip neighborhood Williamsburg, America has thus far proved resistant to the

charms of electroclash, an ‘80s-inspired brand of techno. Its leading female artist seems unlikely to change that: The solo debut from Miss Kittin (née Caroline Herve) offers a blend of minimal electronics, rock guitar and deadpan vocals similar to that touted on rapper/performance artiste Peaches’ recent release *Fatherfucker*, but it tones down that album’s potty-mouthed sexuality in favor of glacial atmospheric. Kittin has the ice-maiden shtick down, whispering and blankly intoning in a heavy accent, but the music tends to drift along unobtrusively, with only the bizarre “Requiem for a Hit” (which shifts oddly between 2 Live Crew-ish booty bass and MOR balladry) and a melancholy cover of French pop band Indochine’s “3eme Sexe” really grabbing any attention.

JAMES SLAUGHTER

DOWNLOAD THIS “3eme Sexe”

## ALLISON MOORER

THE DUEL ★★

SUGAR HILL

Melancholy Alabama-born singer cranks up the optimism without losing her soul

Over four major-label albums, Allison Moorer forged a respectable career singing dusky, midnight-lonesome R&B-tinged country songs that always seem to be about despair, even when they’re not. But she never sings like a victim: Her voice — half dark, lazy →

I LOVE THIS CD!



**KIRSTEN DUNST**  
ACTRESS IN SPIDER-MAN 2

▶ **RUFUS WAINWRIGHT**  
WANT ONE  
DREAMWORKS

“It’s awesome from beginning to end, and it’s so moving. It could be a musical!”

N'E'R'D\*:  
Guess who's  
been watching  
Stripes?



## AT EASE

Superstar producers raise a toast to not giving a damn

**N'E'R'D\***

**FLY OR DIE** ★★★

VIRGIN

▶▶ THE SONIC FIENDS behind both N'E'R'D\* and production heroes the Neptunes are geniuses of the mix — in particular, the mixture of eerily off-kilter blaxploitation soul and digital arrangements so acutely angled they could be New Wave haircuts.

For three years, the Neptunes were as irresistible as they were nameless, a fountain of pop hits for Kelis, Jay-Z, Mystikal and a holy host of others. For the last couple of years, as Chad Hugo and especially bare-chested Pharrell Williams achieved celeb ubiquity, the innovative hits have slowed to a milkshake trickle.

Sad story. Of course, it's hard to feel sorry for the wealthy and talented (especially the third N'E'R'D\*, Shay Haley, whose untaxing gig compares favorably to the guy who mumbles "6 in the morning" in the latter moments of Snoop & Dre hits). Still, they should have been the greatest thing since cherry cola, a delivery from the valley of the bleep beats to a thirsty world. As it is, their second album is a strange brew. The elements are still afloat: spongy electric and

sharp acoustic guitars, layered and off-set choruses, a year's supply of flange and echo.

But which year? For a band of brothers who once seemed ready to fight the future, *Fly or Die* sees N'E'R'D\* largely fleeing into the past, "searching for a way back," in the words of the closing hidden track. The postmodern edge has been smoothed out — not in search of bubblegum billions as much as Salsoul-inflected '70s swerve tempered with favela slack, with Williams's lost-my-key vocals soothing some dull ache we're not sure we have.

The jumiest track, "She Wants to Move," could segue gracefully into one of their Justin Timberlake hits, but most of the record is more pacific. "Don't worry about it," advises the gripping opener, immediately loosening its grip so we can all relax. The record is an elixir for after the after-party, Sunday-morning music for Saturday-night people waking hung over in some fictional Braziladelphia. **RENE VIENET** **DOWNLOAD THESE** "Don't Worry About It," "She Wants to Move"

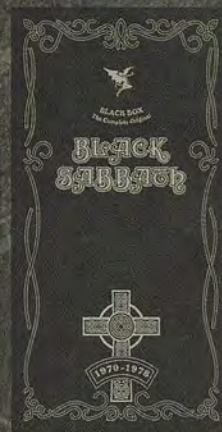
**PHARRELL WILLIAMS'S  
CURRENT LISTENING**

▶ **MISSY ELLIOTT**  
**THIS IS NOT A TEST** GOLD/11/IN/ELEKTRA

**OUTKAST**  
**SPEAKERB0XXX/THE LOVE BELOW** ARISTA

# Occupy Your Brain

[for three-hundred thirty-two  
minutes & seven seconds]



BLACK BOX:  
The Complete Original

# BLACK SABBATH

[1970-1978]

All Eight Ozzy-Era Albums Remastered for CD:

BLACK SABBATH + PARANOID  
MASTER OF REALITY + VOL. 4  
SABBATH BLOODY SABBATH  
SABOTAGE + TECHNICAL ECSTASY  
& NEVER SAY DIE!

Plus a Bonus DVD of Four Classic Live Clips

Available at

**TOWER RECORDS**

**RHINO**

**WB**



The Streets: "Where's the Tarkovsky section?"

## GAME BOY

Britain's premier rap geezer gets conceptual

### THE STREETS

A GRAND DON'T COME FOR FREE ★★★

VICE

WE ARE OFTEN told, now that music comes in streams of data rather than on pieces of plastic, that the album is dying. Who wants to commit to a chunk of music when they can cherry-pick the hits and let an iPod choose the running order? Who would dare to make an album that requires you not just to listen for a full 50 minutes, but actually to concentrate? The Streets' Mike Skinner, that's who.

Skinner's debut, *Original Pirate Material*, was many people's favorite album of 2002, and the basic ingredients remain unchanged. The beats still sound as though they were recorded for the price of a six-pack and a pack of cigarettes; the slang is still unapologetically English; and the vocals, alternating curiously phrased verses with candied hooks, still come exclusively from Skinner and his mates (the poignant "Dry Your Eyes" was recorded with Coldplay's Chris Martin, but the band's label scotched the collaboration).

The innovation is all in the structure. In a previous decade, *A Grand Don't Come for Free* would have been a rock opera, and it would have taken itself very seriously. But

Skinner isn't interested in pinball wizards or ancient alien races. You could imagine this story being told over beers: Skinner's character leaves £1,000 (the "grand" of the title) in a room with his friends, then realizes it's disappeared and tries to find out how. There are detours — a night of clubbing here, a visit to a bookie there — but that's basically it.

What makes it so riveting is Skinner's narrative flair. He works in sudden plot twists, emotional sucker-punches, multiple perspectives and musical tricks. "Blinded by the Light" uses woozy synths to mimic the surge of an Ecstasy rush; "Such a Twat"

takes the form of a one-sided cell-phone conversation; and "Empty Cans" restarts halfway through, to the sound of a vinyl

spinback, to offer alternate endings. The exact opposite of back-ground music, *A Grand Don't Come for Free* demands the same attention as a movie, and that's why some people will hate it while others will find it uniquely riveting. Either way, your iPod's random-play function will not be required. **DORIAN LYNKEY**  
**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Blinded by the Light," "Fit but You Know It," "Dry Your Eyes"

MIKE SKINNER'S CURRENT LISTENING

FRANZ FERDINAND  
FRANZ FERDINAND DOMINO

THE DIPLOMATS  
DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY ROC-A-FELLA/DEF JAM

The narrative flair includes plot twists and sucker punches.

### ASTONISHING FACT! >>

The father of RATATAT's Mike Stroud painted the covers for Stephen King's novels *Firestarter* in 1980 and *Cujo* in 1981.

molasses, half bourbon with a silky finish — rings with equal parts defiance and vulnerability. *The Duel* is less relentlessly despairing: The loping, breezy "When Will You Ever Come Down" even sounds downright cheerful. And with its roughed-up guitars, *The Duel* veers closer to rock than to country, perhaps her way of leaving behind a conventional country career that never took off. But Moorer, her moderately glamorous image notwithstanding, will always have the Appalachians in her soul, which means her obsession with mortality isn't a luxurious preoccupation but a way of life: "I don't know how many rounds/Are left to me till I stay down," she sings. There's strength even in her weariness, maybe because the fight is the thing that holds her together.

STEPHANIE ZACHAREK

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "I Ain't Giving Up on You," "When Will You Ever Come Down"

### MRNORTH

LIFESIZE ★★★

UNINHIBITED

Anthem Irish rockers arrive in the United States

It's not until the opening chords of a monster track called "The Bearded" that mnrnorth's strenuous riffing and large-lunged vocals really hit their stride. For once, the lyrical concept is simple: A boy dies, his mother grieves, we all mourn. Throughout this debut, mnrnorth wield a glorious sort of madness, crash-cutting from solemn piano and vocal elegy to ferocious rap-metal, from funereal dirge to Armageddon frenzy and back. Way over the top, it turns out, is mnrnorth's natural habitat. At their best, the sometimes fetching tunes and high-cal output on "Wastin'" and "Let Me In" balance histrionics with something more haunting.

PHIL SUTCLIFFE

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "The Bearded"

### MURS

MURS 3:16 ★★★

DEFINITIVE JUX

Hard-touring underground rapper tells the world his business

On his 2003 Def Jux debut, ... *The End of the Beginning*, L.A.'s Murs showed off a full range of indie-rap lectures, jokes and stories. On this 10-song, 35-minute follow-up, he explains how and why a conscious MC gets to be a full-time horn dog. Striding purposefully forward on vaguely cinematic fanfares and catchy soul-queen loops, Murs reveals more than you want to know about his sex life, with the details pungent and the foibles out front. He surrounds the theme with local color, like the botched

robbery where he ended up with loot he didn't want. And he goes out on a description of how weird it is for a black hip-hopper to have a white audience.

ROBERT CHRISTGAU

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "And This Is For ...," "Freak These Tales"

### GRAHAM PARKER

YOUR COUNTRY ★

BLOODSHOT

Subpar former pub-rocker hitches his tired wagon to alt-country

Graham Parker came from the school of mid-'70s British vitriol that spawned Elvis Costello and Nick Lowe, and his best work has always rated a tier below what either of those songwriters could cough up in their sleep. His first album of country

material is a reminder of how easy it is to master the genre's vernacular while missing its soul. Terrific players — including Lucinda Williams on a poorly mixed and out-of-tune duet — can't rescue Parker's shiftless, mean-spirited songs. "Fairground" shamelessly knocks off Bruce Springsteen's "No Surrender," while "Queen of Compromise" and "Tornado Alley" revive a strain of misogyny that you thought had died when Costello discovered string quartets. Parker pants with excitement covering the Grateful Dead's "Sugaree" — what a relief it must be to take a break from his own irksome sentiments.

KAREN SCHOEMER

**DOWNLOAD THESE** None

### PASTOR TROY

BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

★★★

UNIVERSAL

Atlanta crunk star trades in moral depth for a car collection

A Dirty South indie star who has sold more CDs out of his car trunk than some rappers sell at Sam Goody in a year, Pastor Troy got scooped up by a major label in 2001 and scored a slick Timbaland-produced hit with "Are We



mnrnorth prepare to fight their archivals, mrsouth.

Cuttin'." On his sixth album, Troy doesn't scrub away his rougher edges entirely (the confrontational "I'm Warning Ya") in pursuit of crossover success, but his sermons are noticeably less compelling than in the past. When the man who once offered conflicted moral commentaries (2001's "Vice Versa") settles for shallow refrains like "The hardest decision I've got to make is which car I'm gonna take when I skate" ("I'm Ridin' Big"), it's not only boring, it's sad.

CHAIRMAN MIAO

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "I'm Warning Ya," "Atlanta"

## RATATAT

RATATAT ★★

XL/BEGGARS GROUP

Interpol-approved Brooklyn instrumental duo throw a cock-rock party over bedroom beats



When you think of bedroom composers huddled over G4s, tinkering with synths and playing guitar into

Pro Tools, you don't think of Iron Maiden. That's because you haven't heard Ratatat. Mike Stroud and Evan Mast lay squealing metal harmonies over choppy Neptunes-style dance thumps ("Seventeen Years"), then brake into pastoral waves of keyboard tone, riding dub tempos and hip-hop struts ("Bustelo," "Lapland"). They're crotch-pumping arena pimps and introverted minimalists — and, for laffs, their name comes from a Dr. Dre song. One second you've got your eyes closed, nodding along somberly (the downbeat parts do get a bit snoozy); the next, you're tossing back your bangs in a pantomimed falsetto howl. Stroud often plays guitar with Dashboard Confessional, which equals a Ph.D. in rock earnestness — these are ironists with their hearts on their sleeves.

JONAH WEINER

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Seventeen Years," "Lapland"

## THE REPUTATION

TO FORCE A FATE ★★

LOOKOUT!

Lady of fine repute's second disc of searing punk-pop

Elizabeth Elmore, a law-school graduate with boy trouble to match her student loans, writes songs that are as much legal briefs as diary entries. In "March," a matter-of-fact but sensuously soft, organ-laced ballad, she wistfully submits the "books he hasn't read" and "words she hasn't said" as culprits in a failed relationship. But topped by Elmore's almost haughty coo, these dark, torrid power-punk-plus numbers leave no

doubt who's holding the gavel. "Bottlerocket Battles" is a Dear John letter set to burly bass and clamorous cymbals; "The Ugliness Kicking Around" breaks midway for strings and then culminates in pounded, discordant piano as Elmore's character finally rejects an abusive lover. Just as diaries can turn into court transcripts, the noise destroys harmonious arrangements.

NICK CATUCCI

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "The Ugliness Kicking Around," "Let This Rest"

## LIONEL RICHIE

JUST FOR YOU ★★

ISLAND

The man who cowrote "We Are the World" now entrusts his music to a squad of hitmakers

For his latest comeback (his fourth), the Top 40 king of the '80s turns into one of those *American Idol* winners who try on any hat a slick production team hands him, hoping one will provide him with an identity. The result is a handsomely decorated grab bag, music that's warm and engaging but gormless. So what's your poison? The title track sounds like late-era U2. Perhaps you'd prefer the decaf soca of "She's Amazing" or the warmed-over Phil Collins of "Dance for the World"? The biggest stretch is "Time of Our Life," a neo-Nashville heart-tugger with a remarkably negligible contribution from Lenny Kravitz. Ultimately, it's Richie's attempt to reinvent himself by erasing himself.

DAVID HILTBRAND

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "Just for You"

## SEACHANGE


LAY OF THE LAND ★★

MATADOR

Ghosts and guitars haunt Nottingham, England, sextet's epic American debut

These Britrockers claim that when they were students at Nottingham University, they lived together in an old haunted house. Could be true, could be the work of an inspired publicist — either way, it's a good

I LOVE THIS CD!



**RANDY JACKSON**  
AMERICAN IDOL JUDGE

**▶ ROBERT RANDOLPH & THE FAMILY BAND UNCLASSIFIED**  
WARNER BROS.

"I listened to a couple of his songs on iTunes and thought they were hot. He's a really cool, inspired musician."

# TRAMPOLINE RECORDS PRESENTS ★ GREATEST HITS VOL I AND II



FEATURING PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED TRACKS FROM LIZ PHAIR, PETE YORN THE WALLFLOWERS, JUKEBOX JUNKIES, MINIBAR, NADINE, MINNIE DRIVER

★ THE HANG UPS AND MANY OTHERS


trampolinerecords.com

VISIT THE TRAMPOLINE RECORDS MUSIC STORE ONLINE FEATURING ENTIRE ALBUM DOWNLOADS FOR ONLY \$6

BARNES & NOBLE  
BOOKSELLERS  
Available at Music Locations

STEREO

# TO MY SURPRISE



"Go out and play"

<http://www.tomysurprise.net>

explanation for their music. Seachange wrap their songs in the glorious dissonance of Sonic Youth and the mighty alt-rock-meets-R&B rhythms of the Afghan Whigs, but underneath it all, they just want to creep you out. This album is all minor-key gloom worthy of I Chabod Crane, like the score to a walk through a shadowy glen or a dark, misty wood. Enigmatic frontman Dan Eastop is downright enchanting, moaning English folk tales and murder ballads full of lines like "He spilled her blood onto the green" ("Anglokana") as a violin mourns and guitars crash all around him. Two words: *scary good*.

JOSH EELLS

DOWNLOAD THESE "Glitterball," "Anglokana"

## SIGUR RÓS

BA BA TI KI DI DO ★★☆☆

GEFFEN

Quality outweighs quantity on Icelandic art-rockers' three-track EP

When the Merce Cunningham Dance Company of New York wanted a soundtrack last year for another avant-garde dance piece, who better to ask than Sigur Rós, a band so arty that their last album had two parentheses for a title? *Ba Ba Ti Ki Di Do* is the 20-minute result, three pieces improvised using a music box, a glockenspiel, samples of Cunningham's voice and — but of course! — eight ballet shoes strapped to a rack. It may be a stopgap release (their third album is due later this year), but it's one with a stealthy, captivating beauty. The swelling, ambient "Ba Ba" and "Ti Ki" sparkle like winter sunshine, while "Di Do" (presumably not an oblique homage to the "Thank You" songstress beloved of Eminem) sounds like a failing radio transmission in an arctic storm.

DORIAN LYNESKEY

DOWNLOAD THIS "Ba Ba"

## PATTI SMITH

TRAMPIN' ★★☆☆

COLUMBIA

The original punk poet of 1977 relaxes into radicalism

Patti Smith is a prophet the way your dad was an engineer and your neighbor teaches school. It's her job, one she greatly values but no longer romanticizes. Five albums into a comeback that began with 1996's grieving *Gone Again*, Smith still rages, but with comfortable steadiness. *Trampin'*, recorded with her longtime band, features all the key Smith elements — oracular improvisation, anthemic optimism and vociferous, radical politics. Now, this notorious idealist seems really relaxed as she hiccupps her way through fine garage-rock in "Stride of the Mind" and tries a little tenderness on "Mother Rose" and "Peaceable Kingdom." She still wants to save the world, but she's not stressed



about it; even the fact that this is her first album for Columbia after nearly 30 years recording for Arista doesn't ruffle her. For years, Smith has excelled in her profession as rock's great heroine; at its best, *Trampin'* sounds more like leisure time, but it still pays off.

ANN POWERS

DOWNLOAD THESE "Stride of the Mind," "Cartwheels," "My Blakean Year"

## STERIOGRAM

SCHMACK! ★★☆☆

CAPITOL

New Zealand quintet manages to make rap-rock cool. Is it too late?

Talk about bad timing: After years of touring, New Zealand rap-rock stars Steriogram arrive on these shores — just as the genre limps toward irrelevance. Nevertheless, the quintet's U.S. debut offers an enhanced package of punk riffs and honky rhyme-spitting. While the roadwork fortified these Kiwis' taut arrangements, canny producer David Kahne (Sublime, Sugar Ray)

emphasizes melodic hooks, transforming "Go" and "Road Trip" from simplistic headbangers into rhythmic, radio-friendly workouts. Frankly, though, it's the "rap" part of the equation that hinders Steriogram; Tyson Kennedy's rhymes often interfere with vocalist Brad Carter's clever, funny lyrics that represent for security guards, fatties and white trash. As with their

inspired, Michel Gondry-directed video for "Walkie Talkie Man," Steriogram demonstrate an ingenuity for revitalizing played-out ideas. Rap-rock oughta be grateful to have them.

TIM GRIERSON

DOWNLOAD THESE "Walkie Talkie Man," "Go"

## TAMIA

MORE ★★☆☆

ELEKTRA

Fresh off a tour with Missy Elliott, Beyoncé and Alicia Keys, superb R&B stylist releases her second album

Elite producer Quincy Jones found Tamia when he gave the Canada native "You Put a Move on My Heart," an R&B-chart hit from his 1994 album *Q's Jook Joint*. Since that gorgeous expanse of sculptural soul, Tamia has taken half a decade to get to *More*, her second album. On the hip, quick-moving "On My Way" and "I'm Yours Lately," arrestingly produced by TrackMasters, she excels; on the more stolid "Officially Missing You" and "Questions" — where R. Kelly misjudges her assets, producing her as though she were Mary J. Blige — she excels boringly. Tamia has a tawny, dead-expert midrange that's a producer's dream; no one in R&B today can beat her as the stylish center of a tight arrangement. But too much of *More* shows only how special, in the right settings, Tamia could be.

JAMES HUNTER

DOWNLOAD THESE "On My Way," "I'm Yours Lately"

## OTIS TAYLOR

DOUBLE V ★★☆☆

TELARC

Minimalist blues and smart, dark lyrics from a singer-songwriter who used to sell antiques for a living

The blues today has no one quite like Otis Taylor, an idiosyncratic 55-year-old singer-songwriter from roots outpost Boulder, Colorado, who probes the dark recesses of the black American experience without coming off as bitter or morose. "Mama's Selling Heroin" is a true story, and on his sixth album since switching from antiques to music in 1995, he also discusses racism in several songs. Taylor constructs his songs on hypnotic drones induced by unusual combinations of plugged-in or acoustic cello, bass, banjo, mandolin and guitar. His guitar rhythms may sound as though they're linked to Africa, but they actually derive from the 1920s hillbilly blues of West Virginia banjoist Dock Boggs and mainstream jazz pianist Dave Brubeck's "Take Five" — and both of them are white.

FRANK-JOHN HADLEY

DOWNLOAD THESE "505 Train," "Mandan Woman"

## BLENDER APPROVED

The best NEW RELEASES of the last three months



### FRANZ FERDINAND

FRANZ FERDINAND

DOMINO

On this sassy debut, full of frantic guitars and disco beats, these Scottish pretty boys vote themselves presidents of the post-punk frat house.



### THE VINES

WINNING DAYS

CAPITOL

Aussie Craig Nicholls replaces his scenery-chewing Kurt Cobain impersonation with crunchy guitar-pop and '60s harmonies on this fine record.



### LIL SCRAPPY AND TRILLVILLE

THE KING OF CRUNK

REPRISE/WARNER BROS./BME

With cameos from Lil "Whaat? Okaay!" Jon, this showcases two up-and-coming crunkateers.



### KANYE WEST

COLLEGE DROPOUT

ROC-A-FELLA/DEF JAM

The A-list producer steps out here as an A-list rapper, representing middle-class dreams to the fullest over sped-up soul.

## JOSH TODD

### YOU MADE ME ★★

TODD ENTERTAINMENT

**Ex-Buckcherry frontman flies solo, crashes in nü-metal hell**

On his first album since disbanding Sunset Strip throwbacks Buckcherry, Josh Todd has teamed up with four Utahans who found him through a LEAD SINGER WANTED ad. As it turns out, he'd have fared better answering a JANITOR WANTED ad: The man who made "I love the cocaine!" a sing-along hook on the 1999 hit "Lit Up" now finds himself neck-deep in monotonous mad-at-Mom metal. When backed by Buckcherry's bloozy cock-rock, Todd could achieve his arena-size ambitions — here, his shimmies and yelps fight an uphill battle against mediocre, muddled riffing. Only two tracks — the ghostly afterlife lament "Lovely Bones" and the pummeling "Blast" — live up to the CHAOS tattoo crossing Todd's stomach. Put your shirt back on, please.

MAURA JOHNSTON

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "Blast"

## TORTOISE

### IT'S ALL AROUND YOU ★★★

THRILL JOCKEY

**Instrumental innovators who hail from Chicago get snoozy with it on their fifth album**

In the mid-'90s, Tortoise changed indie-rock history, birthing a genre dubbed "post-rock" — they masterfully infused dub rhythms, cool jazz and adventurous techno production with rock & roll urgency. Later albums drew on an ever-widening array of sources, but each remained tight, cerebral and groovy. *It's All Around You* is their first

album recorded without a lineup change, and maybe that's why the formula gets a bit stale.

The first three songs drag on with nary a change in rhythm — disappointing stuff from these jazzbos — and oh, yeah, Deep Forest called, guys: They want their New Age synths back. Matters improve with the tranquil funk of "Stretch" and really heat up, for once, on "Dot/Eyes," a tense, creepy, almost gothic number with a bhangra beat tucked inside. It's as bold as Tortoise have always been,

and it reminds you what the rest of this album is missing  
ALEX HANLEY BEMIS  
**DOWNLOAD THIS** "Dot/Eyes"

## CAETANO VELOSO

### A FOREIGN SOUND ★★★

NONESUCH

**Brazilian pop legend spins stock schmaltz into a whole new orbit**

The "standards" album is an overused career-rescue tactic, in which a once-viable singer plops himself in front of an orchestra and croons like Sinatra. Though Veloso's accent makes a few of

his wistful romantic utterances sound cartoonish, his coy, restrained phrasing adds ardor. The arrangements vary dramatically — "Nature Boy" surrounds Veloso in a warm bath of trembling guitars, while "Cry Me a River" sets his voice inside a brass chorale. Veloso gets extra credit for tackling Bob Dylan, the Talking Heads and, in the only misstep, Nirvana ("Come as You Are"). For proof that a gifted singer can redeem a trite song, there's "Feelings," a river of '70s sap that he transforms into a wondrous, disarming vulnerable declaration.

TOM MOON

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "Love Me Tender"

### ASTONISHING FACT! >>

Bassist Doug McCombs of TORTOISE owns more than 300 pairs of pants, because he doesn't like getting rid of clothing.

Tortoise will see you now. . . .



# ACTION THAT'S COOL AS ICE!



## REVVED-UP SPECIAL FEATURES

- DISCOVER THE SPECTACULAR SPECIAL EFFECTS AND ACTION SEQUENCES
- YOUNGBLOODZ LEAN LOW MUSIC VIDEO
- TWO SMOKIN' COMMENTARIES: THE CAST, DIRECTOR AND THE CREATIVE TEAM

**BUY IT ON DVD MAY 18**

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS  
AN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A NEAL H. MORITZ PRODUCTION "TORQUE" MARTIN HENDERSON ICE CUBE MONET MAZUR  
ADAM SCOTT MATT SCHULZE JAMIE PRESSLY AND JAY HERNANDEZ COSTUME DESIGNER HOWARD E. SMITH, A.C.E. AND DAVID BLACKBURN PRODUCTION DESIGNER PETER J. HAMPTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PETER LEVY, A.C.S., A.S.C.  
EDITED BY TREVOR RABIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIKE RACHMIL GRAHAM BURKE AND BRUCE BERMAN PRODUCED BY MATT JOHNSON PRODUCED BY NEAL H. MORITZ AND BRAD LUFF DIRECTED BY JOSEPH KAHN

TORQUEMOVIE.COM AOL KEYWORD: TORQUE WARNERVIDEO.COM

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED

Violence, Sexuality, Language and Drug References

VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES

© 2004 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved.

DOLBY DIGITAL

DOLBY SURROUND

CC



# THE 40 MOST POPULAR SONGS IN AMERICA

→ Maroon 5 spike into the Top 5 — but Usher and that fat guy from D12 hold 'em off!



My undies are blue, too!

## 12 CASSIDY "HOTEL" SPLIT PERSONALITY

With a Fabolous-like gift for thuggin' club jams (and a Fabolous-like love for caps three sizes too big for his head), this Philly upstart is the first rapper signed to DMX, Eve and producer Swizz Beatz's new label, Full Surface. This ode to Ramada Inn booty calls has already spawned a Trina-guesting remix. This month and next, catch him on BET's *Spring Bling*, MTV's *Spring Break* and *The Late Late Show* with Craig Kilborn.

### HOW WE DID IT

The Most Popular Songs chart is based on radio and video airplay and album sales. Provided by HITSDailyDouble.com: "Proof that any idiot in the music business can have a Web site."



POSITION	TITLE	ARTIST	ALBUM/LABEL
1	"BURN"	USHER	CONFESSIONS ARISTA
2	"MY BAND"	D12	D12 WORLD SHADY/INTERSCOPE
3	"SUNRISE"	NORAH JONES	FEELS LIKE HOME BLUE NOTE
4	"THIS LOVE"	MAROON 5	SONGS ABOUT JANE OCTONE/J RECORDS
5	"I BELIEVE IN A THING CALLED LOVE"	THE DARKNESS	PERMISSION TO LAND ATLANTIC
6	"THROUGH THE WIRE"	KANYE WEST	COLLEGE DROPOUT ROC-A-FELLA
7	"ONE CALL AWAY"	CHINGY	JACKPOT DISTURBING THA PEACE/CAPITOL
8	"THE REASON"	HOOBASTANK	THE REASON ISLAND
9	"ROSES"	OUTKAST	SPEAKERBOXXX/ THE LOVE BELOW ARISTA
10	"TAKE MY BREATH AWAY"	JESSICA SIMPSON	IN THIS SKIN COLUMBIA
11	"COME CLEAN"	HILARY DUFF	METAMORPHOSIS BUENA VISTA/HOLLYWOOD
12	"HOTEL"	CASSIDY	SPLIT PERSONALITY FULL SURFACE/J RECORDS
13	"TIPSY"	J-KWON	HOOD HOP SO SO DEH/ARISTA
14	"ARE YOU GONNA BE MY GIRL"	JET	GET BORN ELEKTRA
15	"I MISS YOU"	BLINK-182	BLINK-182 GEFEN
16	"I WANT YOU"	JANET JACKSON	DAMITA JO VIRGIN
17	"YEAH!"	USHER FEAT. LUDACRIS AND LIL JON	CONFESSIONS ARISTA
18	"TOXIC"	BRITNEY SPEARS	IN THE ZONE JIVE
19	"RIDE"	THE VINES	WINNING DAYS CAPITOL
20	"FELL IN LOVE WITH A BOY"	JOSS STONE	THE SOUL SESSIONS S-CURVE
21	"MY IMMORTAL"	EVANESCENCE	FALLEN WIND-UP
22	"STUPID"	SARAH McLACHLAN	AFTERGLOW ARISTA
23	"OCEAN AVENUE"	YELLOWCARD	OCEAN AVENUE CAPITOL
24	"WANNA GET TO KNOW YOU"	G-UNIT	BEG FOR MERCY G-UNIT/INTERSCOPE
25	"HEEL OVER HEAD"	PUDDLE OF MUDD	LIFE ON DISPLAY FEARLESS/GEFFEN
26	"SLOW JAMZ"	TWISTA	KAMIKAZE ATLANTIC
27	"BABY I LOVE U!"	JENNIFER LOPEZ	THE REEL ME EPIC
28	"SHE WANTS TO MOVE"	N'E'R'D'	FLY OR DIE VIRGIN
29	"LYING FROM YOU"	LINKIN PARK	METEORA WARNER BROS.
30	"THIS WAY"	DILATED PEOPLES	NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CAPITOL
31	"DON'T TELL ME"	AVRIL LAVIGNE	UNDER MY SKIN ARISTA
32	"MAPS"	YEAH YEAH YEAHS	FEVER TO TELL INTERSCOPE
33	"WITH YOU"	JESSICA SIMPSON	IN THIS SKIN COLUMBIA
34	"MAD WORLD"	GARY JULES	TRADING SNAKEOIL FOR WOLFTICKETS UNIVERSAL
35	"FREAK-A-LEEK"	PETEY PABLO	STILL WRITING IN MY DIARY: 2ND ENTRY JIVE
36	"MEMORY"	SUGARCULT	PALM TREES AND POWER LINES FEARLESS/ARTEMIS
37	"RUBBER BAND MAN"	T.I.	TRAP MUZIK GRAND HUSTLE/ATLANTIC
38	"100 YEARS"	FIVE FOR FIGHTING	THE BATTLE FOR EVERYTHING AWARE/COLUMBIA
39	"READ YOUR MIND"	AVANT	PRIVATE ROOM GEFEN
40	"MEANT TO LIVE"	SWITCHFOOT	THE BEAUTIFUL LETDOWN COLUMBIA

## 13 J-KWON "TIPSY" HOOD HOP

He's only 17, but that hasn't stopped this Jermaine Dupri-endorsed MC from releasing the loudest booze jam of the year. He's also



from St. Louis, so that definitely doesn't stop him from pronouncing the word *there* as *thurr*. This month, he'll head down to Montego Bay for the annual "Jamaica Spring Fest." Know where a brother can get a convincing fake ID?

## 19 THE VINES "RIDE" WINNING DAYS

For this single's video, Craig Nicholls & Co. packed a gym with rock bands all playing the song in sync — look closely enough, and you can spot impersonators of Outkast and Interpol. This month, the boys wrap up the Aussie



Invasion tour with fellow 'roo-rockers Jet, and this summer, they pair with Incubus for another national run.

## 20 JOSS STONE "FELL IN LOVE WITH A BOY" THE SOUL SESSIONS

The White Stripes' speedy garage-rock romp becomes a mellow groove in the hands of this 16-year-old Brit, currently dominating MTV



and VH1 rotations. You can catch her playing the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival on April 29; the next month, she heads back home to play London's Royal Albert Hall with Sting.

## 28 N'E'R'D' "SHE WANTS TO MOVE" FLY OR DIE

Pharrell Williams says he doesn't smoke weed, but the video for N'E'R'D's latest single is one whacked-out stoner daydream, full of floating



heads and ass-shaped spaceships. Last month, they starred through *Saturday Night Live*, Carson Daly and David Letterman; this month, they wrap up a nationwide tour with the Black Eyed Peas.

Courtesy of J Records (Cassidy); Michael Levine (J-Kwon); Susanna Hoyne (The Vines); Roger Moeniks (Stone); F. Scott Schaller/Corbis Outline (N'E'R'D')



Some music can change your life.



**CONNECT™**  
Music downloads powered by Sony.®

©2004 Sony Connect Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Sony Connect and the Connect logo are trademarks of Sony.



**MAY 2004**  
[connect.com](http://connect.com)



# “I Was Trippin’ on U2!”

→ He idolizes Fred Astaire, took a lot of heat for loving Irish rock and thinks Miles Davis helps reading retention. But don't play comic **Eddie Griffin** any salsa music — it almost killed him!

BY JON REGARDIE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN STEPHENS

**X** "WHEN JOHN LENNON did *Imagine*, that said it all." The bawdy comic Eddie Griffin is rummaging through discs at As the Record Turns, a tiny Hollywood shop, where the sight of the Lennon album makes him suddenly wistful. "Imagine there's no religion," he muses. "One of these days, we'll get it together. America is one big dysfunctional family. There's no *Leave It to Beaver*."

Especially not in hardscrabble Kansas City, Missouri, where Griffin, 35, grew up. That's where his tough-love mother once tried to mow him down in her car, and where his Uncle Buckey, a pimp, got tossed in the joint.

The *Scary Movie 3* star spent his youth idolizing (and impersonating) Richard Pryor, Michael Jackson and... Fred Astaire. "I'm a Fred Astaire

fanatic!" he shouts. "You watch Fred, it's like watching water!" He knows the moves, having run his own dance studio at a tender 17. It would seem Griffin has been on an accelerated track his whole life: marrying at 16, divorcing a year later and becoming a father at 18 (territory he mined when scripting his recent film *My Baby's Daddy*). In 1998, then only 30, he even suffered a heart attack after performing a vigorous salsa routine on the set of a TV show. But even that scare didn't slow him down — he costarred in *Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigolo* the following year, a role he's reprising in the upcoming sequel.

Before dance and comedy, music was Griffin's first love. "Music is communication," he says. "You know it's a gangsta song before Tupac or Dre open their mouth, because the track is *serious*."



**PARLIAMENT**

**FUNKENTELECHY VS. THE PLACEBO SYNDROME**

CASABLANCA, 1977

"When I was 9, I thought George Clinton was the shit. And he's still the shit. I had a little dance group called Soul Patrol. We put together this routine and won a school talent show with 'Flash Light'. We got \$25 each. That was a lot of money back then."



**RUN-DMC**

**TOUGHER THAN LEATHER**

PROFILE/ARISTA, 1988

"We used to get loud on the corner, 23rd and Jackson in Kansas City. After smoking a J, dropping a 40, we'd just start hollerin' and testing out the flow skills with Run-DMC. Lay out the linoleum and get breaking. I was all right, but I ain't gonna break now — I might break something!"



**THE JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE**

AXIS: BOLD AS LOVE

MCA, 1967

"I got into Hendrix when I started learning how to play guitar. I was about 12. I tried to play like him, and it was a disaster — it's a disaster for anybody on Earth to try to play like Jimi. This is one you can serve up to the kids and open their consciousness."



**THE BEATLES**

THE BEATLES

CAPITOL, 1968

"When I finally got into the Beatles, it was during the Reagan era. There was voodoo economics, the trickle-down theory, and it somehow never trickled down to the neighborhood. The social commentary of the White Album helped me relate to the international picture as far as socioeconomics."



**NAPPY ROOTS**

**WATERMELON, CHICKEN & GRITZ**

ATLANTIC, 2002

"My kid, Eddie Jr., came in and said, 'Pops, you gotta check this out!' Popped the CD in, and I was like, 'Whoa, whoa, look out! All right!' It was hip-hop going in a different vein. For a moment everything was about bling-bling, Cristal and 'Shake that fat, juicy rump-shaker.' Nappy Roots took it back to the core."



**DR. DRE**

THE CHRONIC

DEATH ROW, 1992

"You throw *The Chronic* on, and the whole dance floor is packed! I know Dre — I was in a couple of videos from *The Chronic*. I was in the 'Gin and Juice' video — I pop out of this little Volkswagen full of weed smoke on end. Yeah, me, Snoop and Dre, we go back a minute."



**THE DRAMATICS**

**A DRAMATIC EXPERIENCE**

STAX, 1973

"My Uncle Buckey turned me on to the Dramatics. He was a pimp, he was a gangster, he did it all. This is like the predecessor to *The Chronic*. This album taught me that you gotta talk about shit; you can't just say no and then sweep it under the carpet."



**MILES DAVIS**

BITCHES BREW

COLUMBIA/LEGACY, 1969

"My Uncle James introduced me to Miles. It helps with your retention skills. They should try this in schools. If the teacher would have a basic motherfucking beat underneath his lesson, and the kids could go home and play that beat back, the whole lesson would come back in their head!"



**U2**

WAR

ISLAND, 1983

"'Sunday Bloody Sunday' — man, you can't do nothing but feel for your Irish brothers. I didn't even know what Bloody Sunday was about until I did the research. At first my friends were like, 'Man, what you trippin' on? U2?' You, too are crazy!' Then when they listened to it, it turned them on."



**2PAC**

**MAKAVELI: THE DON KILLUMINATI — THE 7 DAY THEORY**

DEATH ROW, 1996

"I knew 'Pac. [*Long pause*] You put on *Makaveli*, it's kind of like he's still here. In death, you gotta celebrate how somebody lived. In that short life, he lived more than most people who live to be 90. I think you close it right there. That's some deep, heartfelt shit."

**AND MORE...**

2PAC ALL EYZ ON ME  
2PAC BETTER DAYZ  
2PAC ME AGAINST THE WORLD  
50 CENT GUESS WHO'S BACK?  
AALIYAH AALIYAH  
AALIYAH ONE IN A MILLION  
ERYKAH BADU BADU  
THE BEASTIE BOYS  
LICKED TO JILL THE BEATLES  
SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND  
BLACKALICIOUS  
BLAZING ARROW MARY J. BLIGE  
NO MORE DRAMA JAMES BROWN FOUNDATIONS OF FUNK  
JAMES BROWN LIVE AT THE APOLLO  
THE CHIL-LITES (FOR GOD'S SAKE) GIVE MORE POWER TO THE PEOPLE  
JOHN COLTRANE A LOVE SUPREME  
MILES DAVIS BIRTH OF THE COOL  
THE DRAMATICS DRAMATICALLY YOURS  
DR. DRE 2001  
EARTH, WIND & FIRE THE BEST OF EARTH, WIND & FIRE VOL. 1  
EARTH, WIND & FIRE THAT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD  
MISSY ELLIOTT SUPA DUPE  
FLY MISSY ELLIOTT UNDER CONSTRUCTION  
FUNKADELIC ONE NATION UNDER A GROOVE  
MARVIN GAYE LET'S GET IT ON  
MARVIN GAYE WHAT'S GOING ON  
AL GREEN LET'S STAY TOGETHER  
ISAAC HAYES HOT BUTTERED SOUL  
ISAAC HAYES SHAFT  
THE JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?  
LAURYN HILL THE MISEDUCATION OF LAURYN HILL  
INDIA ARIE ACOUSTIC SOUL  
JACKSON 5 ABC  
JACKSON 5 DANCING MACHINE  
JANET JACKSON RHYTHM NATION 1814  
JANET JACKSON THE VELVET ROPE  
MICHAEL JACKSON BAD  
MICHAEL JACKSON OFF THE WALL  
MICHAEL JACKSON THRILLER  
ETTA JAMES AT LAST!  
JAY-Z THE BLUEPRINT  
JAY-Z THE BLUEPRINT 2  
ALICIA KEYS SONGS IN A MINOR  
RUFUS & CHAKA KHAN RAGS TO RUFUS  
LENNY KRAVITZ ARE YOU GONNA GO MY WAY?  
LENNY KRAVITZ LENNY  
JOHN LENNON IMAGINE  
JOHN LENNON AND YOKO ONO DOUBLE FANTASY  
LINKIN PARK HYBRID THEORY  
LUDACRIS WORD OF MOUTH  
BOB MARLEY LEGEND  
CURTIS MAYFIELD SUPERLY  
METHUEN MAN & REDMAN BLACKOUT  
MYSTIKAL LET'S GET READY NELLY NELLYVILLE  
N.E.R.D. IN SEARCH OF... NO DOUBT  
ROCK STEADY NOTORIOUS B.I.G.  
LIFE AFTER DEATH NOTORIOUS B.I.G.  
READY TO DIE  
N.W.A. STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON  
OUTKAST BIG BOI AND DRE PRESENT... OUTKAST  
PARLIAMENT CHOCOLATE CITY  
PARLIAMENT MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION  
PARLIAMENT UP FOR THE DOWN  
STROKE PRINCE SIGN O THE TIMES  
PRINCE & THE NEW POWER GENERATION  
1999 PRINCE & THE NEW POWER GENERATION  
PURPLE RAIN RICHARD PRYOR BICENTENNIAL NIGGER RICHARD PRYOR IS IT SOMETHING I SAID?  
BUSTA RHYMES GENESIS  
RUN-DMC KING OF ROCK  
RUN-DMC RAISING HELL  
JILL SCOTT WHO IS JILL SCOTT?  
SNOOP DOGG DOGG DOGG... STYLE  
SNOOP DOGG THA DOGGFATHER ANGE STONE  
MAHOGANY SOUL TEMPTATIONS ALL DIRECTIONS  
TEMPTATIONS CLOUD NINE  
U2 THE JOSHUA TREE  
BARRY WHITE CAN'T GET ENOUGH  
STEVIE WONDER INNERVISIONS  
STEVIE WONDER SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE  
WU-TANG CLAN ENTER THE WU-TANG (36 CHAMBERS)

# The Boom Box

A severely incomplete rap history filled with beats, changes and glory

**X** SINGLE-ARTIST box sets wear down because single artists keep making music even after the thrill is gone. Sometimes, genre overviews have the same excuse — the last 20 years of recorded blues clearly can't compare to the first 40. But that's not the problem with the final disc of *The Hip Hop Box*, in which Universal Music, the largest musicorp in the universe, sums up a miraculously vital genre in four action-packed CDs.

As it stands, disc four proves how many memorable tracks are embedded in the past decade's radio-rap detritus: Bone Thugs-n-Harmony's prophetic singsong, Gang Starr's classic flow, DMX's brutal bark, Noreaga's Neptunes-supplied electro-jive and more. But imagine if it featured the Notorious B.I.G., the Fugees, Jay-Z, Eminem, Missy Elliott, Nelly and Outkast, all absent here except Biggie, snuck in via a well-selected Junior M.A.F.I.A. cameo. Had the purse keepers so desired, they could have blown away underground purism. Who needs "real hip-hop" with the greatest pop on the planet at your fingertips?

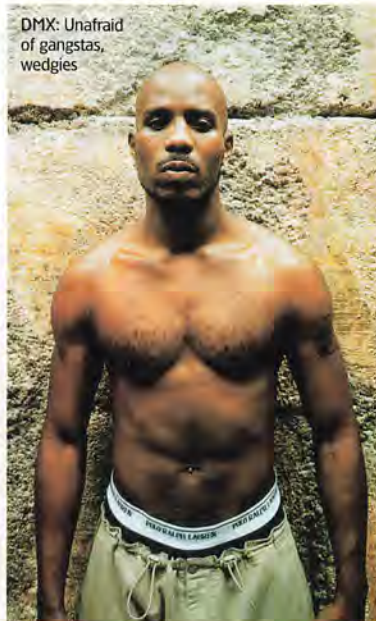
Instead, by short-changing the recent past, *The Hip Hop Box* inadvertently makes a kind of argument for purism. It



Watch out, Chuck D: That guy over there has bigger fingers than you!



Queen Latifah... or Miss Cleo?



DMX: Unafraid of gangstas, wedgies

## VARIOUS ARTISTS THE HIP HOP BOX

★★★★

HIP-O



may well play as an overall downhill slide to anyone familiar with such old-school classics as Afrika Bambaataa's "Planet Rock," Run-DMC's "Sucker M.C.'s" and Roxanne Shante's "Roxanne's Revenge" — which in turn may well shock young rap fans who haven't heard them, positively with their optimistic audacity or negatively with their crude hooks.

The throbbing bass-synth figure of the Treacherous Three's "The Body Rock," from 1980, is ready to conquer the world even if it never gets to New Jersey; the simply chanted repetition of a girl's name is ready to make U.T.F.O.'s 1984 cut "Roxanne Roxanne" a pop sensation even if *Billboard* never notices. In retrospect, both are strikingly minimalist instrumentally — augmented beatbox excursions, basically.

Eric B. & Rakim, Boogie Down Productions and Ice-T lead disc two by deftly elaborating those minimalist parameters. Then comes MC Hammer (with the minor "Turn This Mutha Out" rather than a smash, a typical cheapo tactic): full-band sonics, femme chorus, hype man, scratches, drum breaks, the

works. And then comes the dense Bomb Squad multi-tracked production undergirding the outspoken Public Enemy, as loud and aggressive as any arena-rock band, and a hell of a lot funkier.

It's not even 1990, and we're off to the races. Hip-hop can be anything it wants to be.

It can be Biz Markie out of tune over a piano sample or De La Soul layering as thick as P.E. so they can remain goofs for life. It can be Naughty by Nature copping the Jackson 5, followed by the Fresh Prince (now known as Will Smith) doing spoken-word over girlie cheese. Or the indie entertainment of Chubb Rock, the proto-underground provocation of Black Sheep, the jazz-lite of Dignity and Power, the cockeyed nutball of Craig Mack, the sisterly womanism of Queen Latifah, the diva pride of Roots protégée Jill Scott, the textured flow of Pete Rock & C.L. Smooth, the dramatic atmospheric of Wu-Tang Clan, the oily G-funk of Dr. Dre, the bumpy swamp beats of Timbaland.

Box sets are generally rip-offs one way or another, top-shelf items packaged to suggest a weight that rarely registers on the scale. With its corner-cutting and historical pretensions, *The Hip Hop Box* is no exception. Yet most of its obvious choices sound better than they ever did, and most of its more obscure ones gain cred with every play. Maybe somebody at Universal has good ears. Or maybe with a genre so pervasive and extraordinary, picking just 51 tracks is a gimme.

If the greatness is never as undeniable as at the beginning, the overall effect is, in the end, anything but an argument for purism. It's an argument that hip-hop will continue to mutate successfully for the foreseeable future, and that that's what it was always meant to do.

ROBERT CHRISTGAU

**DOWNLOAD THESE** The Treacherous Three, "The Body Rock"; Craig Mack, "Flava in Ya Ear"; Redman and Method Man, "How High Remix"



> Pop or provocation, hip-hop can be anything it wants to be.

## ACEYALONE

ALL BALLS DON'T BOUNCE REVISITED ★★★★★

PROJECT BLOWED/DECON

Genre-defining debut from L.A.'s biggest underground rapper

In the early '90s, when Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg were rolling down the street, sipping on gin and juice, fellow L.A. twentysomething Aceyalone was taking West Coast hip-hop down a different avenue. On 1995's *All Balls*, supplemented here with a 55-minute

bonus CD of unreleased and remixed tracks, he sounds like the California cousin of New York's Native Tongues. Throughout, Acey bends playful, sinuous rhymes around skronky sax bleats and subdued vibraphone parts. And while clever lines like "My dirty thoughts mud-wrestle in my head muscle" weren't as immediately hummable as, say, "Bow wow wow, yippy yo yippy yay!", they've proved just as enduring.

G. BEATO

DOWNLOAD THESE "Headaches and Woes," "Mr. Outsider," "All Balls"

## BLACK SABBATH

BLACK BOX: THE COMPLETE ORIGINAL BLACK SABBATH (1970-1978) ★★★★★

WARNER BROS./RHINO

Eight CDs and a DVD form a crud-encrusted soundtrack to the apocalypse — or a round of bong hits

History's heaviest metal band never descended into self-parody — they started there. Ozzy Osbourne shrieked lyrics equally rooted in Christian moralizing, the occult and smoking way, way too much pot, while guitarist Tony Iommi's vulgar riffing dragged rock to new lows. With eight doom-laden albums in as many years, the original Sabbath lineup uprooted flower power



Black Sabbath sold their soul for rock & roll. Also their dress sense.

and invented heavy horror rock. They ushered in the '70s with a crushing, swoopily melodic debut that wandered like a drug-struck hippie, and zoomed into oblivion with the lithe keyboard-colored fantasia *Never Say Die!* In between, they edited their apocalyptic theatrics down to tuneful, coal-dense nuggets (*Paranoid*, '71), unearthed primal prettiness (*Master of Reality*, '71), hired Rick Wakeman (*Sabbath Bloody Sabbath*, '73) and mastered prog pastiche (*Sabotage*, '75). If Sabbath parodied themselves, it's because no one could match their extravagance.

NICK CATUCCI

DOWNLOAD THESE "The Wizard," "Changes," "Symptom of the Universe"

## BOYZ II MEN

LEGACY: THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION — DELUXE EDITION ★★★★★

MOTOWN/UNIVERSAL/CHRONICLES

Another rummage through the 30 million-selling rhythm & blues giants' back catalog

Now better known as the setup for a Michael Jackson joke (punch line: He thought they were a delivery service), Philly four-piece Boyz II Men owned the R&B charts in the early '90s with their silver-tongued affirmations that a) they never meant to hurt you, girl, and b) they were gonna love you all night long. As a hits roundup, *Legacy* is flawless, but this more-is-less deluxe edition fills a second CD with bonus tracks, and that's a lot of Boyz II Men amid the spot-the-difference remixes and contributions to increasingly slushy film soundtracks, only a hiccup, Timbaland-piloted "Can't Let Her Go" holds its own. The title of one hit here seems especially appropriate for such an unnecessary reissue: "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday."

DORIAN LYNSEY

DOWNLOAD THESE "Motownphilly," "Her Lover" (with LL Cool J), "Can't Let Her Go"

### THE SCORE >>

★★★★★

EXCELLENT. A MUST-HAVE

★★★★

GREAT. CHECK IT OUT

★★★

GOOD IN ITS GENRE

★★

JUST OK

★

WEAK

# BROKEN AXL

Hard rock's most complicated tale gets badly chopped

## GUNS N' ROSES

GREATEST HITS ★★

GEFFEN

➤ HE MAY BE less than toned these days, but W. Axl Rose can still execute a vice grip on controversy, no matter how innocuous the reason. Note the minor furor over this set: Rose threatened a lawsuit to block it, getting fans excited that he might actually be planning to release the new album he's been sitting on for a decade. Save the lawyer's fee and stop playing with our minds, dude. Though *Greatest Hits* offers nothing to enhance GNR's legacy, it's harmless, Cliff's Notes to a rock & roll legend.

The story this collection abbreviates is truly Shakespearean, which is clear only after listening to the band's full catalog, starting with the early hard-rock blitzkrieg, moving through mid-career experiments and on to the increasingly desperate live releases, covers and outtakes marking Rose's descent into a labyrinth of narcissism and writer's block.

Swallowed whole, GNR's music animates a mythic battle between violence and beauty, ambition and

despair, Vegas cheese and dirty-ass rock & roll — a riveting story that beats out everybody who's hot today (except the hobbits) for blood, guts and genuine tragedy.

Chopped up here, the tale is reduced to an assertion: GNR made the late century's best American music outside of hip-hop (Nirvana, get in the ring). Nine singles prove it. "Welcome to the Jungle," from their 1987 world-turner, *Appetite for Destruction*, is a John Woo action movie. "November Rain" is Elvis-size in its gorgeous corn. Even casual forays like "Patience" and the über-sexy "Sweet Child o' Mine" hold deep meaning beneath the spandex flash.

But we already know that, because these chart-toppers are still in heavy rotation on the radio. *Greatest Hits* offers virtually no album cuts or rarities, filling space that could have held vital music such as "Coma" or "The Garden" with fun but dumb covers (five of the 14 songs). It's generic, meant to rope in teenage newbies and service the gym bags of fans who can't afford iPods. Functional, yes, but like those little yellow student's helpers, this best-of is ultimately a cheat. ANN POWERS

DOWNLOAD THIS "Sweet Child o' Mine"



> This Guns N' Roses best-of is a cheat.



Jackson Browne watches the car while his daddy buys him a soda.

sound much better suited to the sandbox than the bandstand.

JOHN MORTLAND

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "Black Night"

## JACKSON BROWNE

THE VERY BEST OF ★★★★★

RHINO

**Dreamboat L.A.** songwriter felt guilty about sex in the '70s, mad about politics in the '80s



Regret, guilt, waking up mid-afternoon with a haunting stranger in the bed: Maybe you've done that, too, but when you look in the mirror you don't see the yearning waif who gazed out from the cover of Jackson Browne's 1972 debut. For almost a decade, the L.A. songwriter — a denizen of the darker culverts of Laurel Canyon and a fine-boned chronicler of the end of the endless-fun-in-the-sun California vibe — embodied soulful appetite. This two-CD set features lots of his piercing early work — "Running on Empty," "Fountain of Sorrow," even the ode to his little Jackson, "Red Neck Friend" — and not too much of his later stuff, when he took an interest in human rights and turned rather gassy. Here is the best of a

generation of Southern California studiocraft working for a pretty boy who bled more than he got credit for.

RJ SMITH

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Somebody's Baby," "The Pretender," "Late for the Sky"

## CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN

TELEPHONE FREE  
LANDSLIDE VICTORY ★★★★★

II & III ★★★★★

CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN  
★★★★★

CAMPER VANTIQUITIES ★★

SPINART

**Eighties folk-pop absurdists in their early, loopy days**

Last reissued (as a box set) only two years ago, these reunited Cali oddballs' early records have now been expanded with a handful of nonessential bonus tracks each. On their debut, 1985's *Telephone Free Landslide Victory*, they weren't entirely sure if they were an internationalist folk group, a ska band or an anti-hardcore comedy act, but their surreal goofiness has aged amazingly well, and so have their violin-led instrumentals. *II & III* is a free-wheeling little masterpiece, a terse, →

## GLENN BRANCA

LESSON NO. 1 ★★★★★

ACUTE

**Orchestral guitar composer's first stab at the Great Big Noise**

In 1980, Glenn Branca, a veteran of arty punk bands, was dreaming of being something bigger: a new kind of composer, whose chamber groups and orchestras would harness the volume and energy of electric guitars. The song "Lesson No. 1," his statement of purpose, is a magnificent synthesis of the New Wave, disco and avant-garde aesthetics of that New York moment. It was originally a single, paired with the aptly titled "Dissonance," whose huge, ugly tone clusters are underscored by an actual sledgehammer. This CD appends Branca's gruff 1982 epic *Bad Smells*, on which his group includes half of the New York noise masterminds Sonic Youth, who had just formed, and a 1984 video of Branca conducting his roaring, punishing "Symphony No. 5," with a guitar orchestra including future Hootie A&R man Tim Sommer.

DOUGLAS WOLK

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Lesson No. 1," "Dissonance"

## CHARLES BROWN

A LIFE IN THE BLUES ★★

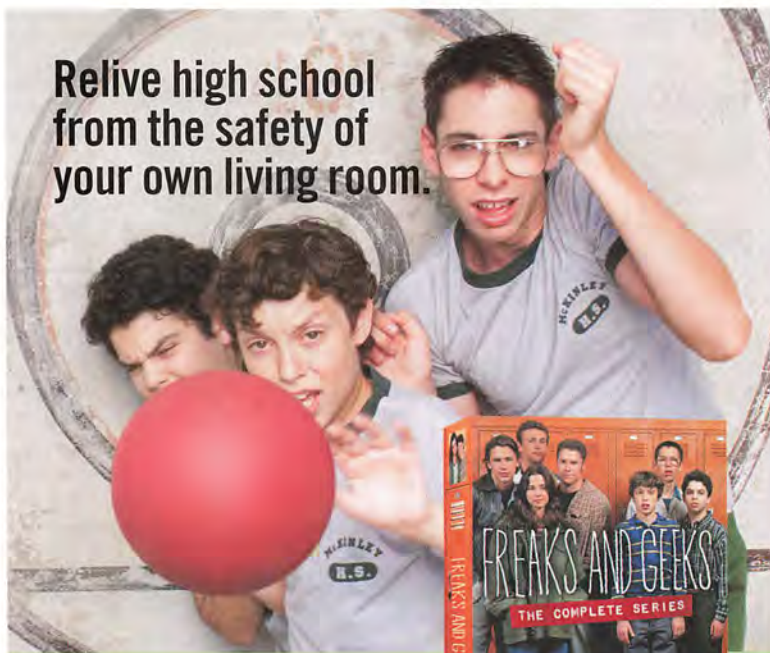
ROUNDER

**Rock and Roll Hall of Fame pianist and crooner turned the blues into makeout music**

Dapper, debonair Charles Brown, who died in 1999 at age 76, was the boss of "cocktail blues," the sophisticated late-night balladry that flourished mostly in postwar Los Angeles, launching the career of Ray Charles (originally a Brown wannabe) while paving the way for smoothies from Sam Cooke and Johnny Mathis to R. Kelly. Brown's buttery, elegantly baroque crooning and semiclassical piano flourishes on his

oft-covered "Drifting Blues" and "Merry Christmas Baby" (with Johnny Moore's Three Blazers) defined the form, and he had aged magnificently by the time he cut this 1990 live set, which comes with an accompanying DVD, just before starting a tour with Bonnie Raitt. Supported by Danny Caron's pinpoint guitar and a breezy, swinging rhythm section, Brown still seduced so cleanly that he made most other lounge acts

Relive high school from the safety of your own living room.



McKinley High, 1981.  
Their pain. Your gain.

**FREAKS AND GEEKS/The Complete Series: All 18 Episodes on 6 DVDs.**  
Emmy® award-winning shows, original music, 29 commentaries and 2 hours of extras.



www.freaksandgeeks.com  
shoutfactory.com





> Weezer birthed a legion of emo whiners.

## N\*E\*R\*D\*S

The band that rode a song about a sweater to pop glory

### WEEZER

WEEZER: DELUXE EDITION

★★★★

GEFFEN

▶▶ WHEN WEEZER stumbled up the pop charts in 1994, staring at their sneakers all the way, you couldn't find an unlikelier rock star than frontman Rivers Cuomo. He was short. He wore big glasses. He played Dungeons & Dragons and admitted it in a song.

Five years earlier, the frat-rock roosters Warrant had been the model for multiplatinum rock stardom. When Nirvana screamed in from nowhere to end Warrant's *Billboard* moment, it was a surprising win for self-loathing over bravado — but Kurt Cobain was a misfit, not a nerd. Now, a true geek had arrived to drive the final nail into hair metal's coffin. The jocks' reign in rock & roll high school was over, and the scrawny mathletes, for once, ruled the cafeteria.

Ten years after its release, Weezer's triple-platinum debut returns remastered, toting a bonus disc of B-sides (featuring "Jamie," the loveliest song ever written about an entertainment attorney), live tracks and some essential rarities. The timing seems perfect. When Cuomo

mumbled about his sweater for the first time on MTV, the archetype for teen hunkiness was *Beverly Hills 90210*'s Dylan McKay. Today, we've got *The O.C.*'s Seth Cohen, a neurotic smart aleck who would take a signed copy of *Sandman* number 1 over a motorcycle any day.

The sugary, girl-fearing songs "No One Else" and "The World Has Turned and Left Me Here" have birthed a legion of tattooed punk and emo pretty boys who wear V-necks and whine about hand-holding; meanwhile, Weezer's irresistible power-pop — "Buddy Holly," "Undone (The Sweater Song)" — paved the way for nerd-rock stars from Nerf Herder to Fountains of Wayne.

There's a sunny, playful joy to "Surf Wax America" and "In the Garage" (where Cuomo rhymes "12-sided die" with *X-Men* hero Kitty Pryde) that went missing in Weezer's later work. As fame got to Cuomo, he became less cute-weird and more weird-weird, trading in goofy grinning and Kiss worship for cerebral drama on 1995's self-flagellating *Pinkerton*. Think of this album as the first *Revenge of the Nerds*. Like all classics, the sequels only pale in comparison.

ANDY GREENWALD

DOWNLOAD THESE "The World Has Turned and Left Me Here," "Jamie," "Only in Dreams"

understated, slyly hilarious new kind of California electric-folk hoedown, built from salvaged scraps of garage-rock. Their self-titled 1986 album is their boldest and most aggressive, featuring big-riffed pop songs, tape experiments and impish allusions to Led Zep and Pink Floyd. *Vaniquities* includes a few graceful rockers that anticipate singer David Lowery's later band Cracker, plus outtakes and filler galore.

DOUGLAS WOLK

DOWNLOAD THESE "Take the Skinheads Bowling," "Sometimes," "Good Guys and Bad Guys"

## JOHNNY CASH

LIFE ★★★★★

COLUMBIA/LEGACY

Vaguely thematic compilation — i.e., songs about everything — planned by Cash in his last days

Never let it be said that Johnny Cash ducked the big issues. In 2000, knowing he was near death, the granite-jawed country legend authorized three career retrospectives called *Love, God and Murder*. But Cash was already thinking of a fourth, to be known simply as *Life*. He apparently settled on the final track listing just four days before his passing in 2003. In keeping with its lofty remit, *Life* addresses the major themes of existence through some of his greatest songs, including the image-defining "Man in Black," in which he proclaims his dark apparel a symbol of solidarity with the poor and the persecuted. Elsewhere are songs of faith, patriotism and nostalgia, mostly driven by the sparse guitar rhythms that traditionally underpinned Cash's rueful baritone. Big issues for a big guy.

PAUL DU NOYER

DOWNLOAD THESE "Man in Black," "The Night Hank Williams Came to Town"

## DEATH COMET CREW

THIS IS RIPHOP ★★★

TROUBLEMAN UNLIMITED

This early-'80s crew attacked hip-hop with punk 'tude, noise and a blowtorch

New York's Death Comet Crew weren't quite the first hip-hop avant-gardists, but they helped create the rough-and-artistic end of the then-fledgling scene. Downtown hipsters in an era when punk rockers and b-boys crashed the same parties, they layered bone-cracking, mostly instrumental beats (some their own, some borrowed from standard breaks) alongside messy snatches of TV and movie dialogue, scratching, fucked-up guitar and pure heavy-industry noise. This disc collects their entire body of recorded work — an EP, a couple of soundtrack cuts and some live recordings — all from 1984. Constant abrasiveness and repetition can make it a little tough to take, although it's perked up by a couple of guest appearances by

rapper/graffiti artist Rammellzee. If there's any hip-hop CD that could kick up a bloody mosh pit, it's this one.

DOUGLAS WOLK

DOWNLOAD THIS "At the Marble Bar"

## DEPECHE MODE

SINGLES BOX #1 ★★

SINGLES BOX #2 ★★

SINGLES BOX #3 ★★★

SINGLES BOX #4 ★★★

SINGLES BOX #5 ★★★★★

SINGLES BOX #6 ★★★★★

MUTE/REPRISE

All the singles, in all the formats, with all the B-sides, 1981–2001



With singer David Gahan telling everyone how pissed off he is at songwriter Martin Gore, this may be the

Depeche industry's last hurrah, but it's a big one. Count the firsts: Depeche Mode combine the Beach Boys and Kraftwerk (1981's "Just Can't Get Enough," from *Box #1*); popularize industrial pervert-pop (1981's "Master and Servant," from #2); invent stadium electronica (1987's "Never Let Me Down Again," #4); combine blues and synths seven years before Moby ("Personal Jesus," ditto); and spot the marketing power of the remix (the superb, downbeat Kruder & Dorfmeister version of "Useless," *Box #6*). Depeche Mode's '80s promised; their '90s delivered, and while Gore's S&M-tainted appeals for "redemption" and "absolution" were reflected in Gahan's real-life grapple with heroin, even the worst times engendered huge, bombastic melodies.

TONY POWER

DOWNLOAD THESE "Personal Jesus," "Condemnation," "Useless" (Kruder & Dorfmeister session)

## JOE ELY

THE BEST OF JOE ELY: THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

★★★★

UNIVERSAL

Texas troubadour's cream of the crop

Like Bruce Springsteen and Tom Waits, Joe Ely has always been a sucker for



▶ BOB MARLEY  
EXODUS  
TUFF GONG/ISLAND

"He really relaxes me. I stop listening to him sometimes, but I always come back. He's a brilliant songwriter."



sentimentality. In his songs, girls in pretty dresses roll Spanish words off their tongues, honky-tonkers find their souls revealed in the bottom of a beer glass and loners drift mystically into a blur of downtown lights. He's an epic romantic with a Texas hat and twang. *The Best of Joe Ely* culls 12 essential tracks from nearly 20 years of solo work, starting with the flamenco-flourished "She Never Spoke Spanish to Me," off his 1977 debut, and culminating in "All Just to Get to You," a muscular paean to feminine perfection from his 1995 album, *Letter to Laredo*; Springsteen himself adds backing vocals. In between, Ely makes a fool for love out of just about anyone who listens.

KAREN SCHOEMER

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "She Never Spoke Spanish to Me," "Honky Tonk Masquerade," "Settle for Love"

## SERGE GAINSBOURG

### AUX ARMES ET CETERA

★★★★★

SUNNYSIDE

**The least likely reggae star ever: old, ugly and French**

Surprise #1: In 1979, Serge Gainsbourg, the late monarch of '60s Francophone sleaze, flew to Jamaica and made a reggae album with local session musicians including Sly & Robbie and the I-Threes. Surprise #2: It was a good idea. The title track, on which Gainsbourg smokily mutters the French national anthem, "La Marseillaise," over a Kingston groove, became his biggest hit in France, and his growling remakes of the oldie "Vielle Canaille" and his own 15-year-old "La Javanaise" skank mightily. ("Reggae is revolutionary," Gainsbourg declared.) Surprise #3: This reissue's producers went back to Jamaica in 2002, made bonus dub mixes of Gainsbourg's album and commissioned DJ versions from old-timers (Big Youth, King Stitt) and unknowns (the teenage Rizzlamigo) — and they're worthy of the original tracks.

DOUGLAS WOLK

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Lola Rastaquouère," "Vielle Canaille" (with Spectacular & Culture T)

## GEORGE HARRISON

### THE DARK HORSE YEARS 1976–1992

★★★★★

CAPITOL

**The "Quiet Beatle" finds freedom from Lennon and McCartney something of a mixed blessing**

George Harrison probably welcomed the freedom that came from the Beatles' demise, but solo life must have felt lonely: This handsome package — the six albums he released on his own label, with a handful of bonus tracks, plus a DVD of videos and performance footage — reveals a brilliant sideman who disliked the spotlight. Although



Buddy Holly & the Crickets: It's all glamour!

Harrison's crying guitar and tender vocals can induce gentle ecstasy, he often seems depressed, while the slender melodies sag under his weighty musings on the spiritual and material worlds. Still, earthly pleasures abound, from a beautiful Smokey Robinson tribute ("Pure Smokey") to "All Those Years Ago," a eulogy for the murdered John Lennon, to goofy doo-wop ("I Really Love You") that challenges the sad-sack stereotype. The collection closes on a high note with 1987's less mopey *Cloud Nine*, which features the breezy hit "Got My Mind Set on You," and the double-disc *Live in Japan* (costarring Eric Clapton and recorded in '91), on which Harrison finally sounds comfortable in his own skin — maybe even happy.

JOY YOUNG

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Got My Mind Set on You" (studio version), "Taxman"

## BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETS

### THE CHIRPING CRICKETS

★★★★★

MCA

**Respectable Texas rock & roll pioneer's 1957 debut**

Elvis Presley is larger than life (or death), Jerry Lee Lewis was a thousand times wilder and Chuck Berry will always be a cooler name to drop — but these 16 tracks go most of the way to proving that Buddy Holly was as worthy of worship as any rock founding father. "Oh, Boy!" "It's Too Late" and the wonderfully sarcastic "That'll Be the Day" still burst with both verve and compositional brilliance, and you can instantly hear what gripped the minds of both the Rolling Stones (who brutalized "Not Fade Away" and turned it into a watershed hit) and the Beatles. Less than two years later, Holly died in a plane crash; to use a phrase like *tragic loss* surely represents a laughable understatement.

JOHN HARRIS

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "That'll Be the Day," "It's So Easy"

## JETHRO TULL

### BURSTING OUT

★★★★★

### STORM WATCH

★★★★★

CHRYSALIS/CAPITOL

**Past their prime, ridiculous, bearded Brits mix hard-rock guitars with constant flute solos. Stop!**

By the time Jethro Tull had convened the tour commemorated on 1978's *Bursting Out*, the quintet had enjoyed a full decade of success, and they cheerily celebrated such highlights as "Aqualung" and "Locomotive Breath" (but not, tellingly, the bubblegum hit "Bungle in the Jungle") — although main man Ian Anderson's droll patter is more inspired than the performances. By contrast, *Storm Watch* (the last album with the classic Tull lineup) is so tired and gloomy that not even the addition of four bonus tracks makes this 1979 set worth having. Fortunately, *A*, recorded a year later, boasts a new sound and a revamped band. Originally intended as Anderson's solo debut, it's pointedly prog-rock in orientation and draws heavily on violinist-keyboardist Eddie Jobson. There's also a DVD of the



Serge Gainsbourg: "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?" *Non!*

mostly live video *Slipstream* for those who can't get enough of Anderson's google eyes and beard.

J.D. CONSIDINE

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Songs From the Wood," "Aqualung," "Flyingdale Flyer"

## JUDAS PRIEST

### METALOGY

★★★★★

COLUMBIA/LEGACY

**Super-metally metal band issues four-disc headbangers' bible**

They didn't invent heavy metal, but Judas Priest have been its most zealous defenders. Expanding the 1993 set *Metal Works* from two discs to four (plus a live DVD from a prime-era '82 gig), this chrome-studded, leather-bound keepsake holds everything but the codpiece and exhaust fumes: a 30-year span of monster-truck hits, live tracks and B-sides, plus covers of Fleetwood Mac and... Joan Baez? For longevity, they assimilated biker fuzz and boot-boy oil, S&M skullduggery, thrash and disco (even their '86 synth-metal atrocity *Turbo* rates four tracks), never abandoning the metal qua metal ("Metal Gods," "Heavy Metal," "Metal Meltedown") that became their signature. Rob Halford's operatic, hypersexualized squeals, which seeded metal's tortured homoeroticism for a generation, are never a whit less than way too much, and when the monster hits dry up in the middle of disc three, guitarists Glen Tipton and K.K. Downing rewrite the shred-guitar playbook. Priest are nothing if not generous: While *Metalogy* is coming out in time for the re-Halfordized band's reemergence on Ozfest, it nonetheless offers a four-song footnote to the group's dalliance with cover-band replacement Ripper Owens.

CARLY CAROLI

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Freewheel Burning," "Ram It Down"

## KMD

### THE BEST OF KMD

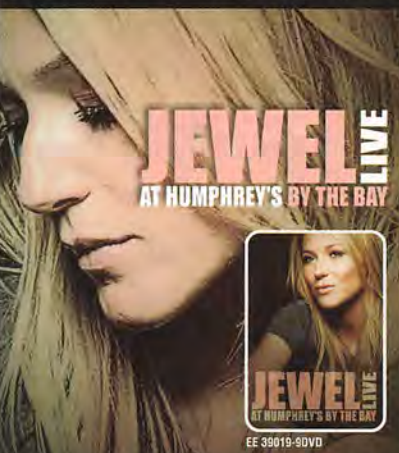
★★★★★

NATURE SOUNDS

**Early-'90s hip-hoppers put joyous spin on politics, personal problems**

De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest might have established hip-hop's politically progressive wing, but KMD put a sly spin on the genre. This Long Island trio's greatest gift: slyly smuggling king-size social issues inside jubilant, jazz-influenced arrangements — thumping bass rhythms, scattering horns, crisp snares. Teen MCs Zev Love X (who later renamed himself MF Doom and now performs wearing a metal mask) and Subroc tackle alcoholism on "Sweet Premium Wine," demand to be taken seriously despite their tender age on "Peachfuzz" and complain about racist "mockery of the original folks" on "Who Me?" KMD's career was cut short when Subroc was killed in a 1993 car →

NEW FROM EAGLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT



First Live DVD featuring the mega-hits "Who Will Save Your Soul", "You Were Meant For Me", and "Hands".



EE 39019-9DVD

Bonus Features include:

Interview, Photo Gallery & Discography  
"Standing Still" on the road video  
3 Bonus Songs

Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround,  
5.1 Surround DTS and Stereo.  
**IN STORES NOW!**



EV 30063-9DVD

**BUSTA RHYMES**  
**EVERYTHING REMAINS RAW**  
FIRST EVER LIVE FEATURE DVD  
**IN STORES 5.18.04**

INCLUDES:

- "WOO HA! GOT YOU ALL IN CHECK"
- "PASS THE COURVOISIER"
- "I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT"
- "BREAK YA NECK"
- "PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE MY EYES CAN SEE"

DOLBY DIGITAL 2.0 • DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1 • DTS 5.1

BONUS: BEHIND THE SCENES ALL ACCESS FOOTAGE OF  
THE FLIPMODE SQUAD AND MORE!

Also Available

Bee Gees - One Night Only (Re-Release)  
EV 30059-9 DVD9

Janet Jackson - The Velvet Rope (Re-Release)  
EV 30053-9 DVD9

Janet Jackson - Live in Hawaii  
WHV 37658-2/3 DVD/VHS



available in stores or online at: [www.eaglerockent.com](http://www.eaglerockent.com)

accident and their label gave them the boot, but for a time, they made it sound as if there was nothing fresher than picking at society's scabs.

JON CARAMANICA

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Sweet Premium Wine," "What a Nigga Know?," "Peachfuzz"

**BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS**

GROOVING KINGSTON 12  
☆☆☆

HIP-O

A messy sampling from reggae king's pre-stardom years

You could build a great box around Bob Marley's recordings from the years before his fame reached beyond Jamaica; this skimpy three-disc set, padded out with dozens of instrumental and DJ versions of his early singles, isn't quite that. Focused on the period around 1971, when the Wailers released a series of records on their own Tuff Gong label and Lee "Scratch" Perry's Upsetter imprint, it raggedly traces Marley's transition from a soul fan who carefully followed Jamaican pop's fashions to an experiment-minded internationalist taking his first stabs at sweetening and tailoring reggae for an overseas audience. Still, there's some fine stuff here, especially the unnerving, slow-gliding grooves produced by Perry, and it's fascinating to hear the origins of "Concrete Jungle" and "Kaya," songs that became international hits when Marley rerecorded them years later.

DOUGLAS WOLK

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Black Progress," "Who Is Mr. Brown"

**HAROLD MELVIN & THE BLUE NOTES**

HAROLD MELVIN & THE BLUE NOTES ☆☆☆

EPIC/LEGACY

Teddy Pendergrass's Philly-soul breakout set

This 1971 album was the first time most people heard Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, thanks to its number 1 R&B hit "If You Don't Know Me By Now," but the Philadelphia vocal quintet had been recording since 1956. Melvin himself is a minor presence on the record; the songs were written and produced by Philly schmoove-meisters Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, and the rich, tormented baritone on most of the album was by the then-unknown Teddy Pendergrass, who originally joined the group as its drummer. The material's all slow, lush grooves, and the crying-on-a-satin-pillow vibe sometimes goes over the top. But Pendergrass had something to prove here, and his singing influenced a generation of soul lovers.

DOUGLAS WOLK

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "If You Don't Know Me By Now"



The Pixies pioneer barbershop grunge.

**HARRY NILSSON**

NILSSON SCHMILSSON ☆☆☆

RCA

Close personal stoner friend of the Beatles loved sweet ballads, sweet blender drinks

Best known for his operatically lovelorn cover of the Badfinger ballad "Without You," '70s eccentric Harry Nilsson was a West Coast frère of the Apple-era Beatles, and his kitchen-sink pop-rock shared the crackly studio warmth and winsome experimentalism of his famous friends. While Nilsson stayed a cult artist for most of his career, *Nilsson Schmilsson*, from 1971, briefly thrust him onto the pop charts, propelled by "Without You" and the kooky, Club Med-ish novelty "Coconut." But closer to Nilsson's general sardonic mien are a three-song suite about hating mornings and one of the great album jackets of all time: Nilsson standing in his friend's kitchen, bleary-eyed and scruffy, dressed only in his bathrobe, cradling a hash pipe.

CRAIG MARKS

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Without You," "Jump Into the Fire"

**PIXIES**

WAVE OF MUTILATION: BEST OF PIXIES ☆☆☆☆

4AD

Nirvana confessed to ripping off these newly reunited Boston indie-pop-punk geniuses

Black Francis made as much sense Chihuahua-yipping in Spanish as he did cooing in English — that is, a hell of a lot, if you look to songs for mood over meaning. From 1987 to 1991, the Pixies singer described a fascinatingly warped world where torture, violence, sex and bliss are chained together (the devastating "Hey"), army men abuse aliens (on the albums *Trompe Le Monde* and the perfect *Bossanova*, both under-represented here) and redemption is attainable, but only after you've vomited up a lung barking about your manias ("Caribou"). Francis doesn't overshadow his band on these 23 career highlights: Guitarist Joey Santiago is an equal linchpin, building up jittery punk rattles ("Nimrod's Son") before bursting into austere, gorgeously wistful arcs ("Where Is My Mind?"), while bassist/co-singer Kim Deal adds ghostly harmonies. This is a fine introduction to a stunning, endlessly enigmatic oeuvre.

JONAH WEINER

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Hey," "Monkey Gone to Heaven," "Velouria"

**KENNY ROGERS**

BEST OF KENNY ROGERS: THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION ☆

HIP-O

Pop-country graybeard makes best-of CD feel like an entire millennium

As an artist, Kenny Rogers has always been a superb businessman; whether solo or with his early group, the First Edition, he's had the savvy to pick winning country-pop material and to use consistent producers and arrangers,

**BURIED TREASURE**  
UNEARTHING LOST CLASSICS >>

THE ART OF NOISE  
WHO'S AFRAID OF THE ART OF NOISE? ☆☆☆☆

ISLAND, 1984



The Art of Noise: not the art of style

A record without a band — the credited "songwriters" include the producer, the recording engineer and the art director — the Art of Noise's first full album invented a whole new way to use samples, building witty, arty grooves around revving motorcycles (the dance hit "Close [to the Edit]"), and errant phonemes ("Beat Box [Diversion One]"). It even spawned a slow-jam standard, "Moments in Love." In retrospect, it was the first great instrumental hip-hop album, and everyone from DJ Shadow to El-P remains in its debt. DOUGLAS WOLK

Steve Double/Retna Ltd. (Pixies); Alphonse Teymonde (self-file); Ippo Mosto/EMI (The Art of Noise)

so one hit segues seamlessly into the next to resemble — well, it is an artistic vision, of a kind. But his voice remains too thin, and his stylistic fillips too pedestrian, to make this stuff satisfying schlock, and on tracks like the ultra-classy '70s ballad "Lady," he sounds like a tire slowly leaking air. Finally, he shamelessly swiped singer Charlie Rich's Silver Fox persona to make it work. Rogers increasingly comes off like the aural equivalent of those septuagenarian con artists who bilk rich widows who don't even mind because at least somebody's paying attention to them.

JOHN MORTHLAND

DOWNLOAD THESE None

## DIANA ROSS & THE SUPREMES

DIANA ROSS & THE SUPREMES  
NO. 1'S ★★★★★

MOTOWN/UTV

From '64 to '81, Motown to disco, pop's original diva survives changing styles

The recent news that Diana Ross spent 48 hours in an Arizona jail for driving drunk generated not controversy but amusement. The woman known to everyone but her jailer as "Miss Ross" long ago crossed the line from musician to camp figure. But this product of a Detroit housing project was once pop's biggest diva, and she set the standard for glamour that Whitney Houston and Beyoncé still strive to match. As lead singer for the Supremes, she fronted Motown's biggest act — at one point, starting with 1964's "Where Did Our Love Go," the trio had five singles in a row reach the top spot. Her voice — breathy, girlish, vulnerable and knowing — stamped records that were both precisely crafted and childishly accessible. Solo, she sang several mushy soft-pop standards ("Touch Me in the Morning," the Lionel Richie duet "Endless Love"), but also the triumphant "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and the percussive "I'm Coming Out," memorably sampled by the Notorious B.I.G. on "Mo' Money Mo' Problems." But her gem remains 1976's "Love Hangover," which moves gracefully from slow jam to disco, her voice changing between sultry and ecstatic, capturing a time when she was a regular in the private basement rooms at Studio 54, supremely fabulous.

NELSON GEORGE

DOWNLOAD THESE "Love Hangover," "I'm Coming Out"

## OUMOU SANGARE

OUMOU ★★★★★

WORLD CIRCUIT/NONESUCH

Thirtysomething beauty brings liberation songs to West Africa

Anyone who has heard Oumou Sangare launch one of her earthy womanist anthems will covet this well-



The Supremes: "No, no — Diana Ross would *never* leave us."

programmed two-disc compilation, comprising 12 tracks from her three '90s albums, a new one, a worthy remix and half an hour of songs from the 2001 Mali-only cassette *Laban*. She's Afropop's all-time leading lady, already more momentous than South African freedom fighter Miriam Makeba or Parisian fashion force Angélique Kidjo. It helps that she's a natural feminist, fearlessly expressing women's politics and erotics in the teeth of Muslim West Africa's male supremacy. But it seals the deal that the only male Malians whose music reaches as far are Salif Keita and perhaps true-blues hustler Ali Farka Toure. Adding Western instruments to the herky-jerk harp and circular choruses of southern Mali, Sangare's hypnotic, rousing *wassoulou* style showcases a voice simultaneously assertive and girlish, seductive and maternal. The notes explain the lyrics. But without knowing a word of Bambara, you'll hear how much she respects the old ways and how little she kowtows to them.

ROBERT CHRISTGAU

DOWNLOAD THESE "Ah Ndiya," "Dugu Kamalemba," "Djorolen" (remix)

I LOVE THIS CD!



**MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ**  
ACTRESS IN DRIVER 3

---

**METALLICA METALLICA**  
ELEKTRA

"Every time I get a copy of it, someone takes it. But they never give it back, so I end up buying it every two months."

## PAUL SIMON

THE PAUL SIMON SONGBOOK

★★★★

COLUMBIA/LEGACY

Long-unavailable folkie juvenilia from the much-honored composer-librettist of *The Capeman*

Whatever you think of Simon & Garfunkel, you have to admit that the constraints of angelic harmony undercut the quirks of Paul Simon's songwriting. Unfortunately, so does the folkie voice-and-strum of this U.K.-only 1965 collector's item, cut for the fan base Simon developed in London before S&G broke. The duo recorded most of these songs in the '60s, and recorded them better. Significantly, the three they skipped are all protest material: the outspoken "A Church Is Burning," a testy early version of "A Simple Desultory Philippic" and the genuinely rare antiwar sermon "The Side of a Hill." But Simon also suppressed the album for another reason: His true solo debut, 1972's *Paul Simon*, is about 10 times better.

ROBERT CHRISTGAU

DOWNLOAD THIS "The Side of a Hill"

## SLADE

GET YER BOOTS ON — THE BEST OF SLADE ★★★★★

SHOUT! FACTORY

Seventh (!) hits set from spelling-impaired U.K. glam-rock hooligans

Though they were written off as the thuggish sound of a boozy British pub just before a fight breaks out, there was more to Slade than their stack-heeled shoes and soccer-terrace sing-alongs →

# DEPECHE MODE

## THE SINGLES

6 BOXED SETS  
EACH  
CONTAINING  
6 CDS

In Stores 3.30.04



The stellar band's astounding singles legacy presented in a deluxe boxed library.

The first 36 singles including:  
**Enjoy The Silence**  
**Personal Jesus**  
**Policy Of Truth**  
**People Are People**  
and much more!

Plus all commercially available remixes, B-sides and many rare and deleted tracks.

www.depechemode.com  
www.repriserec.com  
www.mute.com

© 2004 Reprise Records.



suggested. But not much more. Their signature rave-up "Cum On Feel the Noize" (covered in the '80s by Quiet Riot) begat Oasis; "Gudbuy T' Jane" is about a transsexual; and "Merry Xmas Everybody" perfectly captures a bleary 1970s family "knees-up" celebration. Their glam historians and barroom breeziness won the four ex-skinheads from England's Midlands 11 Top 5 U.K. hits in the early '70s, and to hear those hits is to recall brown ale, sideburns and smoky British pubs. Perhaps unsurprisingly, they never quite broke in the U.S.

ANDY PEMBERTON

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Cum On Feel the Noize," "Mama Weer All Craazee Now"

**THALÍA**

**GREATEST HITS** ★★

EMI/LATIN

The early days of a Mexican starlet, recently picked for American crossover

By the time she was 15, Thalía (a connected Mexico City rich girl) was a household name in Latin America as a *telenovela* star. She became a national sex symbol after singing sappy soap-opera title songs. Thalía (pronounced tah-lee-ah) is also a brand (she has a Kmart clothing line), so think of her as a Mexican J.Lo, especially since her vocal talent is limited and she relies on chart-topping producers for music. Adjusting her makeup and clothing throughout this double CD (including a disc of videos), she purrs over a Fat Joe rap on "Me Pones Sexy" or acts like a cabaret ringleader, tropical disco queen or horny Mexican princess. She and her collaborators aim the music at Mexican pop taste, which is a notch kitschier than even American pop, so the CD is not recommended for diabetics.

ENRIQUE LAVIN

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "Arrasando"

**THE TROGGS**

**THE BEST OF THE TROGGS**

★★★

MERCURY

Three chords, two brain cells and "Wild Thing"

Sure, the Troggs' "Wild Thing" only gave us proto-punk's second-greatest chord sequence after the Kingsmen's "Louie"

but "Louie Louie" had no match for the stoned recorder solo of "Wild Thing," so call it a draw. Mixing lads-in-the-garage crudity ("I Can't Control Myself") with bubblegum ballads ("Love Is All Around") and acid reveries ("Night of the Long Grass"), the Troggs fashioned a wildly varied two-year string of British Invasion hits from 1966 through 1968, all caged within this set. No one would have bet that these working-class rejects would be fondly remembered four decades after their brief heyday, but their Neanderthal charm holds up. Singer Reg Presley played the lecher one minute and the fey hippie the next, while guitarist Chris Britton perfected the anti-solo with a sound that, much like the band, could be gratefully crude yet ingratiatingly innocent.

GREG KOT

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "I Can't Control Myself," "Night of the Long Grass," "Wild Thing"

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**

**BAD BOY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY ... THE HITS** ★★

BAD BOY/UNIVERSAL

Hits set from the Diddy vaults, seven years after B.I.G. went R.I.P.

Bad Boy might be P. Diddy's label, but in its '90s heyday, this hit factory was the



Hank Williams Jr.: So if you are a cowboy, you is shit?

Notorious B.I.G.'s house. His graceful, hood-rich rhymes brought the Harlem imprint street cred and champagne-bubbly hits, often in the same song ("Big Poppa"), so it's fitting that he's on eight of these 15 tracks. On remixes of 112's between-the-sheets romp "Only You" and Total's crush paean "Can't You See," he actualized Diddy's lucrative vision of marrying R&B and hip-hop into thug-love pop, consummated by Mase's "Feel So Good." The lone new track, "Victory 2004," tanks, however. On this tossed-together rehash of the 1997 Diddy/Biggie/Busta Rhymes single, guests

50 Cent and Lloyd Banks phone in their performances — it's a tribute to Bad Boy's golden days, but it certainly won't prolong them.

JOSEPH PATEL

**DOWNLOAD THESE** The Notorious B.I.G., "Big Poppa"; Puff Daddy feat. the Notorious B.I.G. and Mase, "Mo' Money Mo' Problems"

**HANK WILLIAMS JR.**

**THE BEST OF HANK WILLIAMS JR.** ★★

MERCURY

The son of country's greatest songwriter, seen as a hellraiser-in-training

Like a lot of country singers, Hank Williams Jr. started out trying to sound like Hank Williams. He eventually carved out his own niche, but this dishonestly titled collection — drawn from the pre-Bocephus years, 1964 to 1974 — reveals a singer in search of a style. From a Hank Sr. knockoff ("Long Gone Lonesome Blues") and tribute ("Standing in the Shadows"), Junior moves on to Charlie Rich-style R&B ("I've Got a Right to Cry") and the lame country-pop of "The Last Love Song" ("What do you suggest/To take the place of your breast?"). Mostly, it's string-sweetened but serviceable honky-tonk à la early Moe Bandy. Not a thing wrong with it, but let's just say it's a good thing Hank Jr. kept making records.

JOHN RATLIFF

**DOWNLOAD THIS** "I've Got a Right to Cry"

**YES**

**TORMATO** ★★

**DRAMA** ★★

**90125** ★★

WARNER BROS.

British prog-rock leviathans' career makeover, with many bonus tracks

Metaphorically, punk rock had spat all over Yes's satin tour jackets by 1978. But that didn't stop the band from wearing them for *Tormato's* back cover photo. It's a hollow gesture, though, as this overcooked stew of keening pop and sci-fi rock screams "career crossroads!" Within a year, singer Jon Anderson and keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman had bailed, replaced by Trevor Horn and Geoff Downes, previously of zany pop duo the Buggles. Atypically, *Drama* (1980) made a hard fist of Yes's epic rock, but the fans didn't take to the new cuckoos in the nest. Anderson was back for 1983's *90125*, with Horn taking the producer's role, and the new-look Yes landed a hit single, the lithe, Police-imitating "Owner of a Lonely Heart," and an album of techno-pop as likeable and unusually contemporary as their new silk boiler suits. They were never again interesting.

DANIEL KRAUSS

**DOWNLOAD THESE** "Does It Really Happen?," "Owner of a Lonely Heart," "Changes"

**BLENDER APPROVED**

The best REISSUES of the last three months



**JAMES BROWN**

**LIVE AT THE APOLLO**

UNIVERSAL

In 1962, Brown was an upstart. This concert — with guttural vocals, razor-sharp horns and an agile rhythm section — made him an icon.



**ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN**

**OCEAN RAIN**

SIRE/RHINO

"The greatest album ever," according to singer Ian McCulloch — who's cocky, but not so far off. This is a portrait of splendid derangement.



**BOB DYLAN**

**LIVE 1964**

COLUMBIA/LEGACY

When the Beatles were for teenyboppers and the Stones were a cover band, Dylan was full of smarts and spice — all captured in drunken glory here.



**CANDI STATON**

**CANDI STATON**

HONEST JOINS/ASTRALWERKS

Escaping an abusive marriage, working at a nursing home and singing by night, this Southern soulstress's every syllable rings with pain, beauty and resolve.

**I LOVE THIS CD!**



**BENICIO DEL TORO**  
ACTOR IN  
21 GRAMS



**ELVIS PRESLEY**  
**ELVIS [1956]**  
RCA

"I love Elvis with his small band. I listened to it in Memphis when filming *21 Grams*. It was like being in time warp."

## REISSUES IN BRIEF BY JON YOUNG

Two members of Spiritualized were later fired for "blurriness."



### THE CARPENTERS

GOLD: 35TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION  
★★★★

UTV

The eerie aura of the Carpenters' '70s hits, blending Richard's lush, mentholated production and Karen's dazed vocals, suggests the siblings regarded lobotomy patients as their ideal audience. However bland the textures, there's no escaping the naked desperation churning within "Goodbye to Love" and "Rainy Days and Mondays." No wonder Richard Nixon was a fan.

### GRANT LEE BUFFALO

STORM HYMNAL: GEMS FROM THE VAULT OF GRANT LEE BUFFALO  
★★★★

RHINO

Were they art-rockers? Folkies? Grant Lee Buffalo (the group) never could decide. Literate leader Grant-Lee Phillips applied his stressed-out pipes to stark acoustic confessions ("Fuzzy") and Bowie-esque pop ("Jupiter and Teardrop"), exploring relationship hell with "Honey Don't Think" and "Mockingbirds," both heard on *The Gilmore Girls*. Drawn from the defunct trio's four albums, this stellar retrospective comes with a second disc of equally pungent leftovers.

### DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES

ULTIMATE DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES  
★★★★

BMG HERITAGE

Like fearless superheroes, this dashing blond frontman (Hall) and his smaller, dark-haired sidekick made Top 40 safe for blue-eyed soul, sustaining 10 years of hits from 1974 on. While the overstated singles "She's Gone" and "Rich Girl" are catchy to the point of annoyance, the puny cover of "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling" lacks the titanic anguish of the Righteous Brothers classic.



Hall & Oates: Nice body-popping!

### HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH

THE BEST OF HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH (1993 THRU 2003) ★★★★★

ATLANTIC/RHINO

If it's possible to feel sorry for any band that sold 16 million copies of an album, Hootie is that band. The absurd success of *Cracked Rear View*, the *Frampton Comes Alive!* of the '90s, was out of proportion to the modest merits of its Southern guitar-pop, making the "one-hit wonder" tag inevitable. Their recent rendition of "Goodbye Girl" for a TV movie suggests a more fitting level of prominence for Darius Rucker's crew than superstardom.

### GEORGE JONES

LIVE RECORDINGS FROM THE LOUISIANA HAYRIDE ★★★★★

SCENA

So unreliable a live act that he acquired the nickname "No-Show" Jones, the honky-tonk legend could tear up the stage when he was sober enough to keep the appointment. Spanning 1956 to 1969, these lo-fi performances chart Jones's evolution from callow Hank Williams disciple ("Color of the Blues") to masterful crooner of heart-break ("Things Have Gone to Pieces"). Is there a sadder song than "She Thinks I Still Care"? No, there is not.

### SPIRITUALIZED

THE COMPLETE WORKS VOLUME TWO  
★★★★

SPACEMAN/ARISTA

Bliss and sometimes anxiety flow on this two-disc grab bag of '90s outtakes, B-sides and radio cuts, as these Brits' trance-inducing mini-symphonies brake for sporadic outbursts of surly rock, such as the Jesus & Mary Chain-inspired "Electricity." Nasty or nice, J Spaceman's deft molding of sound for dramatic effect — see his spooky deconstruction of the *X-Files* theme — produces reality-bending moments, even if the pieces don't cohere.

# LIBERATOR®

BEDROOM ADVENTURE GEAR

WWW.LIBERATOR.COM 1.866.542.7283

GREAT NEW ANGLES ON SEX



♥ ramp/wedge



♥ wedge

YOUR FANTASIES JUST BECAME REALITY. THE LIBERATOR® CREATES AMAZING NEW WAYS NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE. Call for FREE GUIDE!

# LYNYRD SKYNYRD

**X** Ronnie Van Zant always said he'd never live to 30. The Lynyrd Skynyrd singer was proven right on the night of October 20, 1977, when a tour plane crashed in Mississippi, killing him, guitarist Steve Gaines, who had joined the band a year before, and Gaines's sister Cassie, a background singer.

In only five years, Skynyrd, along with the Allman Brothers, had defined Southern rock by recording "Free Bird" and "Sweet Home Alabama," two guitar solo-strewn rock classics. "Skynyrd's music is going to live on long after we're gone," said Ronnie's brother Johnny, who took over vocal duties when the post-crash breakup ended in 1987. They still tour, still play "Free Bird," but have never found a replacement for Ronnie's combative redneck pluck and wit. By Clark Collis



Lynyrd Skynyrd in 1974, from left: Billy Powell, Allen Collins, Leon Wilkeson, Bob Burns, Ronnie Van Zant, Gary Rossington, Ed King

## BLENDER APPROVED

### (PRONOUNCED LEH-'NERD SKIN-'NERD) MCA, 1973

★★★★★



Named facetiously for former gym teacher Leonard Skinner, who hated longhairs, Skynyrd were discovered in an Atlanta club where, according to Ronnie Van Zant,

"there was a fight at least twice a night!" The quarrelling Skynyrd boys were hardly innocents on that score, but this debut offsets muscular rockers (the coward's anthem "Gimme Three Steps") with beautiful laments such as "Tuesday's Gone." Both sides of their psyche combined to create "Free Bird" — their label begged them to cut it down to three minutes, but it has now been played on the radio more than 2 million times. Including right this second.

**Standout tracks:** "Tuesday's Gone," "Gimme Three Steps," "Free Bird"

### SECOND HELPING MCA, 1974

★★★★★



"Turn it up!" The Neil Young-dissing lyrics of "Sweet Home Alabama" earned Skynyrd an unjust rep as Southern conservatives (Van Zant was even a big Young fan).

But their second LP also sent them into the big time. More assured than its predecessor and featuring a three-guitar attack for the first time, *Second Helping* focuses Van Zant's blue-collar muse: He's anti-heroin use ("The Needle and the Spoon") and pro-raccoon hunting ("Swamp Music").

**Standout tracks:** "Sweet Home Alabama," "Workin' for MCA," "Call Me the Breeze"

### STREET SURVIVORS MCA, 1977

★★★★★



In retrospect, everything about *Street Survivors* — cover, title, the death-obsessed lyrics of "That Smell" — seems like a harbinger of doom. But their fifth

studio album was also their best since the first, from the fond, funny groupie tribute "What's Your Name" and the feisty "Got That Right" ("You won't find me in no old-folks' home") to the honky-tonk-waltz album closer, "Ain't No Good Life." "It's the best we've ever done!" Ronnie Van Zant declared. A few days after its release, Skynyrd's plane crashed.

**Standout tracks:** "What's Your Name," "That Smell," "Honky-Tonk Night-Time Man"

## GREAT

### NUTHIN' FANCY MCA, 1975

★★★★



According to producer Al Kooper, recording the exhausted and increasingly coked-up band's third album was "awful — I nearly ended up in the loony bin." But *Nuthin' Fancy*

has strong moments, notably the anti-handgun lead track, "Saturday Night Special," and "Whiskey Rock-a-Roller."

**Standout tracks:** "Saturday Night Special," "Cheatin' Woman," "Whiskey Rock-a-Roller"

### GIMME BACK MY BULLETS MCA, 1976

★★★★



Rod Stewart producer Tom Dowd imposed order on a group that was now spending almost as much time behind bars as onstage ("Double Trouble" was inspired

by Ronnie Van Zant's eleventh spell in jail). Defiant but weary, the record tilts toward country and, in the case of "All I Can Do Is Write About It," eco-awareness.

**Standout tracks:** "Gimme Back My Bullets," "Every Mother's Son"

### ONE MORE FROM THE ROAD MCA, 1976

★★★★



Originally supposed to have been recorded in New York, Skynyrd's first live album was eventually taped at Atlanta's Fox Theater after drummer Artimus Pyle broke his leg

parasailing. It's an immaculate mix of hits and covers, and their best-selling record.

**Standout tracks:** "Tuesday's Gone," "Sweet Home Alabama," "Free Bird"

### FREEBIRD: THE MOVIE MCA, 1997

★★★★



In 1976, Skynyrd played in the U.K. opening for their heroes, the Rolling Stones, for what was widely believed would be their last concert (hat). While one

reviewer described Mick Jagger & Co. as "a shambling parody," Skynyrd sound great, if muddily recorded, on this soundtrack to their documentary-cum-concert movie.

**Standout track:** "Workin' for MCA"

CHECK IT OUT

**SOUTHERN BY THE GRACE OF GOD** MCA, 1987  
★★★



Following the plane crash, the surviving members decided to permanently disband. Then in 1987, they regrouped for a one-off "tribute" tour, with Johnny Van Zant filling in for his older brother. The revived Skynyrd have stayed on the road pretty much ever since.

**Standout tracks:** "That Smell," "Dixie/Sweet Home Alabama"

**ENDANGERED SPECIES** CAPRICORN, 1994  
★★★



Essentially *Skynyrd Unplugged* — plus a cover of "Heartbreak Hotel." Although a fairly obvious consolidating move by an outfit increasingly short of original

members, the laid-back approach suits Skynyrd surprisingly well.

**Standout tracks:** "Heartbreak Hotel," "Saturday Night Special"

**SKYNYRD'S FIRST** MCA, 1998  
★★★



Before signing with MCA, the band recorded in Alabama at Muscle Shoals studio, whose owners, the Swampers, later received a name-check on "Sweet

Home Alabama." Before the plane crash, Skynyrd had overdubbed those old recordings, leading with an even more heartrending version of "Free Bird." **Standout track:** "Preacher's Daughter"

**EDGE OF FOREVER** CMC, 1999  
★★★



The re-formed Skynyrd's best studio record, thanks largely to the addition of Blackfoot guitarist Rickey Medlocke, who, almost 30 years earlier, had temporarily filled the band's drum seat. Chunky, lively guitars abound, and Johnny pays tribute to his brother on the lighter-waving "Tomorrow's Goodbye." **Standout track:** "Workin'"

BE CAREFUL

**LYVE FROM STEEL TOWN** CMC, 1998  
★★★



A competent but redundant concert set that ex-drummer Artimus Pyle (who left in 1992 because, he said, the band was "doing the coke thing") memorably

described as having "nothing live on it but the crowd noise."

**Standout track:** "What's Your Name"

**SOLO FLYTES** MCA, 1999  
★★★



A roundup of songs recorded by the various members of the band during their post-crash hiatus, *Solo Flytes* is predictably patchy.

Only the Rossington Collins Band tracks approach classic-Skynyrd greatness. **Standout track:** Rossington Collins Band, "Prime Time"

**COLLECTYBLES** MCA, 2000  
★★★



A two-disc set of rarities and previously unreleased material that spans the career of the pre-crash Skynyrd from their first single, the Who-ish "Need All My

Friends," to "Jacksonville Kid," a *Street Survivors* outtake. Want to hear "Free Bird"? This provides no fewer than three opportunities to do so.

**Standout track:** "Memphis"

**VICIOUS CYCLE** SANCTUARY, 2003  
★★★



Despite the death of much-loved bassist Leon Wilkeson, Skynyrd sound at least somewhat lively on their most recent album. On "Red, White and Blue,"

Johnny Van Zant sneers, "Ain't on the edge of no popular trends/Ain't never seen the inside of that magazine *GQ*." Maybe he's more of an *Esquire* man. **Standout track:** "Red, White and Blue"

FOR FANS ONLY

**LYNYRD SKYNYRD 1991** ATLANTIC, 1991  
★



Their first post-crash, non-live album suffered from the absence of guitarist Allen Collins, who was paralyzed in a car accident and later died of pneumonia.

Johnny Van Zant, who had had an unremarkable recording career since 1980 (he even quit music to drive a truck), sounds anonymous, even though Ronnie used to say Johnny had the better voice. **Standout track:** "Mama (Afraid to Say Goodbye)"

**THE LAST REBEL** ATLANTIC, 1993  
★



As generic as *1991*, maybe more so, thanks to egregiously clean, horn-drenched production. As for the songwriting, Johnny repeatedly proves that he either doesn't

know, or doesn't care, about the difference between heartfelt and atrociously clichéd. **Standout track:** "The Last Rebel"

**TWENTY** CMC, 1997  
★



Released to coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the plane crash, but notable only for "Travelin' Man," a well-intentioned but ghoulish "duet"

between Johnny and his deceased brother. **Standout track:** "Travelin' Man"

**CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN** CMC, 2000  
★



An utterly inexplicable Yuletide-themed release. Their version of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" has to be heard to be believed — though that's not reason

enough to listen to it. **Standout track:** "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

FURTHER LISTENING

**LYNYRD SKYNYRD** MCA, 1991  
★★★★★

Forty-seven tracks, many of them rare, make this box set the ultimate Skynyrd starter kit. Dedicated to a depressingly long list of the dead.

**THE ESSENTIAL LYNYRD SKYNYRD** MCA, 1998  
★★★★★

Exactly what it says on the tin: all the classic tunes from the pre-crash Skynyrd, plus an acoustic take of "All I Can Do Is Write About It" and live versions of "Whiskey Rock-a-Roller," "Gimme Back My Bullets" and "Free Bird."

**LEGEND** MCA, 1987  
★★★★★

An excellent Tom Dowd-overseen collection of B-sides and previously unreleased material. In the '70s, even Skynyrd's discards still stomped on the competition.

**TURN IT UP!** CMC, 2002  
★★★

Instead of stealing Ronnie's famous demand at the start of "Sweet Home Alabama" (oddly not included here) for its title, this compilation of the band's '90s output should have been called *The Best of the Worst*.

# The Gay Divorcée

It's costume changes: yes!, live singing: not so much, on the opening night of Britney's racy new tour

## BRITNEY SPEARS

SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA

MARCH 2, 2004 ★★



ON THE FIRST night of Britney Spears's Onyx Hotel tour, the show is off to a promising start.

It's everything you could ask for: hard beats, big riffs, breathy vocals and a full gluteal workout.

Only one problem: That's not Britney Spears onstage. It's opening act Kelis, wearing a spectacular pair of white pants so tight and low they could almost be socks. She's having problems with the sound system, and the stage set consists of nothing more elaborate than two bouquets of balloons, but she kills anyway, snarling soul-punk hooks and occasionally cracking a smile. Her big hit, "Milkshake," is the kind of crude, irresistible club smash that Spears has been trying (and failing) to record for years.

Still, it's impossible to forget whose show this is. When Kelis launches into the strutting technopop song "In Public," a bunch of Britney fans — not girls but not yet women, all blond or maybe just blond for the night — jump up and scream, showing off their matching pink tank tops. The shirts spell out their heroine's name, and there are eight of them: seven letters plus an exclamation point.

After a short intermission and a few minutes of darkness and screaming, the star herself emerges in a black catsuit, moving her ass and lips in time to the frenetic,

bhangra-inspired beat of "Toxic" (She's a brazen lip-syncer, secure in the knowledge that her fans don't expect her to sing.) Eight dancers — dressed in bright, busy outfits that make them look like villains from forthcoming Batman movies — grab and grope, and the crowd screams some more.

Over the past few years, Spears has gotten both harder to hate and harder to love. Unlike Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera, she seems to have no particular musical ambitions, and she's better known these days for her misses (the two-and-a-half-day marriage, the tabloid-baiting club crawls, the peevish interviews) than for her hits. So this concert often seems like one big in-joke, with preteen true believers outnumbered by high-school girls discovering the joy of kitsch: They're giggling as they applaud, and the two dressed in matching "... Baby One More

Time" outfits look like drag queens.

After every few songs, Spears and her dancers change outfits while the video screens show vignettes that look like the between-sex parts of porn movies. (In one of the most ridiculous, Spears is waylaid in an alley by Jada Pinkett-Smith, who turns a

brick wall into a magical night-club.) This blockbuster even has its own Jar Jar Binks (or Gollum, if you prefer): a corpulent master of ceremonies who says things like, "You'll dive into imagination, you'll be privy to many a titillation." Guess which syllable he emphasizes?

All night, Spears works hard, desperately trying to pump life into uninspired songs from *In the Zone*, her new album. It's entertaining but totally exhausting, like watching

16 music videos in a row with your TV turned up to 11. For "(I Got That) Boom Boom," Spears changes into baggy jeans and a pink spider-web top to show off some hip-hop dance moves. "Breathe on Me" is show-stopping group-sex pantomime that seems designed to inspire a Congressional

hearing: There's a boy-boy strip-tease, a three-woman orgy and lots of pretend masturbation; at the end, a male

dancer slumps in bed and puts a pillow over his crotch.

By contrast, Spears seems embarrassed by her old hits, though she has no reason to be. "... Baby One More Time" and "Oops! ... I Did It Again" get shoe-horned into a lounge-style medley, while she leaves out "Stronger" and "I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman" entirely. The new Spears mainly wants to make her fans dance and gasp, not sing along.

Odd, then, that the best song of the night is a ballad. It starts with Spears sitting behind a piano strewn with flowers, delivering a breathtakingly hackneyed speech about her turbulent life. Suffice it to say that the phrases *like a roller-coaster* and *made me who I am* figure prominently.

But then she starts singing — really singing — "Everytime," a weepie from the new album. She's struggling to hit the notes, but hearing her try is half the fun. "Every time I try to fly, I fall/ Without my wings I feel so small/ I guess I need you, baby," she sings, rising from the piano while the piano keeps playing.

When she croons, "My weakness caused you pain/And this song is my sorry," it's tempting to think she's apologizing to disappointed preteens (and their parents), not a cry-me-a-river ex-boyfriend. It's a relief to remember that Spears hasn't totally retired her old persona. When all else fails, she can spread her arms, bat her eyes and do what she does best: play innocent. *KELEFA SANNIHEH*

Britney Spears seems to have no particular musical ambitions.

Even Britney's emotional baggage needs a bellhop.



FIRST NIGHT OF THE TOUR



Britney's new bodyguards are a distinct improvement on Big Rob.





"Is there a divorce lawyer in the house?"

A HOMETOWN GIRL

ONLY

EXPOSED!

# The Prince of Nice

He's like Fabio without the muscles — a tousle-haired balladeer who croons in English, Italian and *l'amour*

## JOSH GROBAN

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, SEATTLE

JANUARY 24, 2004

**X** "I'M SO EXCITED! My goodness!" burbles a Noxzema girl in a satin A-line dress as her ticket is torn for the second-ever tour date of Josh Groban's exploding career. Her goodness is typical of the nearly 3,000 fans swarming the palatial Paramount Theatre in Seattle: Mom and Dad are here, along with teenyboppers, Grandma with her walker and Little Brother in a tiny bow tie. There's even an infant trapped in one of those horrible polar-fleece jester costumes parents think are adorable. The mood is that of a well-chaperoned dance. In Groban, nice America has found a unifying force.

Dark curls bobbing around overwhelming eyebrows, the

22-year-old chanteur strolls through an elegantly spare set with the confidence of one who has partied with Céline Dion. Classy with a capital C, he seems to breathe Italian, though he was raised in Los Angeles. His not-quite-tenor, not-quite-baritone is as fortifying as milk.



Groban wraps his balmy voice around the hushed introduction to "Oceano," the opening track on his second album, *Closer*, which sold nearly 2 million copies its first two months on the charts. There's a barefoot female violinist stage right and a studly, earring-wearing guitarist stage left, flanked by their fellow musicians: 15 string players making up Team Classical, and a five-piece band that is serving as Team Pop.

Then Groban flubs a note. Now, *this* is promising — pushing too hard, the handsome Muppet seems to be coming to life! He quickly recovers, however, his mellifluous tone recaptured, his countenance serene.

Soon he's into "My Confession," penned by Richard Page of Mr. Mister, a band destined to be

reunited by VH1. Groban croons "I'm on my knees" as guitarist Tariq Akoni plays polished Spanish-restaurant fills. But he never sinks to his knees — he might scuff his black slacks. As he moves through his multilingual repertoire of classically kissed ballads, he projects just one emotion: polite

**In Josh Groban, nice America has found a unifying force.**

gratitude for the gift of his own voice.

Wandering between his rock and classical crews,

Groban makes the show a testament to the glory of mainstream eclecticism, mixing corn from different parts of the globe, a champion for everyone who wants classical music to be more like Queen than Beethoven. This is world-pop beyond genre. Sounding huge is the only goal for Groban, who was born with killer

MINIUSA.COM





"Will you sign my chest?"  
"Uh, no."

HIS FIRST-EVER TOUR

Josh Groban:  
"I'm not continuing until I get my tie back!"

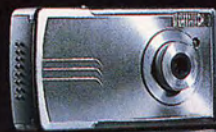


resonance, the vocal equivalent of a supermodel's bone structure. He could — and one day might — turn a Pepsi jingle into a hymn.

He does need to find some guts, though. While making a crowd of all ages and sexual persuasions totally lose it, he acts as though he's just earned the understudy role in a traveling production of *Cats*. Stop being so polite, Groban! You're dating an actress who has the incredible porn-star name of January Jones! You claim to love *South Park* and Björk — so prove it! It's one thing to be nice. It's another to invite

comparison to Haley Joel Osment's character in *A.I.*, a film for which Groban sang the theme: a robot striving to become human.

There are some hopeful interruptions, including a rather awkward rendition of Linkin Park's "My December." Groban doesn't know what to do with the song; he has to really think — and, harder still, feel. Later, he shyly presents his own cowriting efforts. One, "Never Let Go," sounds like Nickelback. Somehow, though, it's awesome. For an instant, this dashing humanoid becomes an actual man. ANN POWERS





**THE GOOD!**

# BEAST MASTER

Hugh Jackman kicks off the blockbuster season by hunting monsters — lots of monsters. By Clark Collis

## VAN HELSING

**DIRECTED BY** Stephen Sommers

**STARRING** Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale, Kevin J. O'Connor, Richard Roxburgh

WHEN BLOCKBUSTER auteur Stephen Sommers was making *The Mummy*, his F/X team invented the "Sommers Scale" to measure the amount of digital effects used in any particular scene. The scale started with "just right" before progressing to "too much," "way too much," "oh, shit, the computer's crashing!" and, finally, "what Steve wants." In short, if you're looking for someone

capable of overseeing an F/X-heavy tent-pole movie that's set in the nineteenth century and features the Wolfman, Dracula and Frankenstein, Sommers is your man.

Which is presumably why Universal was happy to pony up \$160 million for *Van Helsing*, which finds *Dracula* author Bram Stoker's aged vampire slayer being re-invented as a young vampire slayer

played by *X-Men*'s Hugh Jackman. Not that Jackman exactly jumped at the chance, according to Sommers, whom *Blender* tracked down midway through the film's five-month postproduction schedule.

"He kept saying, 'I don't wanna be known as the guy who does these big summer hit movies,'" the director says. "We'd all be like, 'Right, Hugh — it would be horrible to be that guy.'"

Also on board is Kate Beckinsale (last seen in the werewolf/vampire film *Underworld*) as the only surviving member of a family that has spent 400 years trying to kill Dracula, and Sommers's regular comic relief Kevin J. O'Connor, who plays the monster-assisting Igor. As for *Van Helsing*'s quality, there's no doubt that its trailer displays a spectacular amount of "What Steve wants"-type effects-driven action, probably enough to reassure the Universal brass, which will make the two sequels Jackman has already signed up for.

"I don't really think about sequels," Sommers says. "When I'm writing a script, I don't even think I'm going to direct it. If I thought I was, I wouldn't write these things — they're just too damned hard."

## REAL-LIFE MONSTER HUNTER!

Meet Jonathan Downes, director of the Centre for Fortean Zoology

**What exactly does a real-life monster hunter do?**  
We carry out research all over the world into new and undiscovered species of animals. It could be just a new species of terrapin. Or, on the other hand, it could be the Yeti or the Loch Ness Monster.

**What's the most frightening thing you've encountered?**  
I was in Puerto Rico chasing up a beast called *El Chupacabra*, which is a semi-mythical Latin American vampire demon that preys on domestic livestock. I did an autopsy on a chicken that had been attacked. I found only two puncture wounds, but there was no blood in there, and the liver had been removed, even

though there was no hole through which the liver could have been removed. That scared the shit out of me.

**Did you have a wooden stake on you at the time?**  
Not a wooden stake. But I have been known to have a rosary and a crucifix in my briefcase, usually alongside my bottle of duty-free brandy. You know, I'm a scientist, but I'm also a Roman Catholic.

**Is this all just a way of impressing girls? Does it work?**  
I fucking wish.

*More information about the Centre for Fortean Zoology can be found at [cfz.org.uk](http://cfz.org.uk).*



"Hi, I'm here for my Brazilian wax."



Frank Mas (*Van Helsing*), The Kobal Collection (monster), courtesy of the Centre for Fortean Zoology (Downes)



**THE BAD!**

**NEW YORK MINUTE**

**DIRECTED BY** Dennie Gordon

**STARRING** Ashley Olsen, Mary-Kate Olsen, Eugene Levy, Darrell Hammond

THE OLSEN TWINS, now college freshmen themselves, attempt to make the leap from their direct-to-video offerings to the big screen with a film that finds Ashley trying out for an overseas college program while Mary-Kate dreams of meeting punk idols Simple Plan. Or is it the other way around? And, frankly, who cares, given that the movie also features plot lines about stolen microchips (sooo '90s, guys!) and a politician's kidnapped dog. OK, the presence of Eugene Levy and Darrell Hammond promises at least a couple of yuks. But it's directed by the guy who made *Joe Dirt*. You can't say you haven't been warned.



**& THE INDIE!**

**CARANDIRU**

**DIRECTED BY** Hector Babenco

**STARRING** Luiz Carlos Vasconcelos, Milhem Cortaz, Milton Gonçalves

LIKE *CITY OF GOD* set in prison, this gritty drama from veteran Brazilian director Hector Babenco is as extreme as it gets. Based on real events that took place in the desperately overcrowded São Paulo Detention Center — a.k.a. Carandiru — in 1992, the film follows an idealistic doctor attempting to halt the spread of AIDS among the convicts. Flashes of dark humor offset the grim and the grime, but the final third of the movie, when riot police storm the prison and kill more than 100 inmates, is jaw-dropping in its intensity and bloodletting. That's right: the ideal date movie! *NORTON FOLGATE*

**BLENDER APPROVED**

The best MOVIES of the last three months



**KILL BILL VOL. 2**

Uma Thurman proves you just can't keep a good woman down. Even if you bury her.



**DAWN OF THE DEAD**

When zombies attack, Ving Rhames and Sarah Polley head for the hills (or, more accurately, the nearest mall).

**AND THE REST...**



**13 GOING ON 30**

**DIRECTED BY** Gary Winick

**STARRING** Jennifer Garner, Mark Ruffalo, Kathy Baker

**THE PITCH** Big for girls: A gawky 13-year-old who wishes she was older wakes up one day to discover that she's turned into Jennifer Garner.

**THE VERDICT** *Alias*'s Garner is a fairly untried commodity on the big screen, but the three people who saw Winick's previous film, *Tadpole*, thought it was pretty funny.

DON'T MISS



**TROY**

**DIRECTED BY** Wolfgang Petersen

**STARRING** Brad Pitt, Eric Bana

**THE PITCH** The queen of Sparta is kidnapped, and it's up to Greek warriors to get her back. Hey, wasn't that the plot of *Lethal Weapon 3*?

**THE VERDICT** Prerelease stills show Brad Pitt oddly resembling wife Jennifer Aniston in his cute miniskirt. But *Air Force One* director Petersen should ensure an action-packed version of Homer's tale.



**SHREK 2**

**DIRECTED BY** Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury, Conrad Vernon

**STARRING** Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, John Cleese, Julie Andrews

**THE PITCH** Everyone's favorite grumpy ogre meets his in-laws. Meanwhile, in the we're-fairly-sure-this-isn't-a-joke department, Larry King voices an ugly stepsister.

**THE VERDICT** A sure thing, in spite of Myers's terrible Scottish accent.

DON'T RUSH



**THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW**

**DIRECTED BY** Roland Emmerich

**STARRING** Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal

**THE PITCH** *Independence Day* director Emmerich swaps civilization-as-we-know-it-threatening aliens for an, um, civilization-as-we-know-it-threatening cold snap.

**THE VERDICT** Well, the trailer is impressive — although given recent events, you might have thought they could have picked a different city than New York to show in ruins.



**SOUL PLANE**

**DIRECTED BY** Jessy Terrero

**STARRING** Kevin Hart, Snoop Dogg, Tom Arnold, Method Man

**THE PITCH** The black *Airplane!* (June Cleaver talking jive in the original wasn't black enough?) A man wins a \$600 million lawsuit and starts the Snoop-piloted airline of his dreams.

**THE VERDICT** We love the fact that the airline is called NWA. We hate the fact that the cast list includes the words *Tom* and *Arnold*.



**GODSEND**

**DIRECTED BY** Nick Hamm

**STARRING** Robert De Niro, Greg Kinnear, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos

**THE PITCH** A couple attempt to clone their dead son with help from a stem-cell expert. Do things go as planned? They do not.

**THE VERDICT** Hamm, who directed the nicely creepy *The Hole*, seems like the right man to provide the frights for what is with luck not one of the last films from cancer-stricken De Niro.

**LAST GOOD MOVIE YOU SAW?**



**CHINO MORENO**  
LEAD SINGER, THE DEFTONES

"*First Blood*. Watching this Rambo movie makes me feel all warm and pink inside."

Bob (New York Minute); Isidore Berango (Carandiru); Andrew Cooper/Miramax Films (Kill Bill Vol. 2); Michael Gison (Dawn of the Dead); John McMurtrie/Reina UK/Reina Ltd. (Moreno); Tracey Bennett (13 Going on 30); Alex Bailey (Troy); courtesy of DreamWorks (Shrek 2); courtesy of 20th Century Fox (The Day After Tomorrow); Bruce Talaman (Soul Plane); courtesy of Lions Gate Films (Godsend)



"And I'm going to photocopy my ass over there! . . ."

## MEN AT WORK

The worst boss in the universe makes for the funniest DVD of the year so far. By Clark Collis

### THE OFFICE: THE COMPLETE SECOND SERIES

CREATED BY Ricky Gervais, Stephen Merchant

STARRING Ricky Gervais, Martin Freeman, Mackenzie Crook, Lucy Davis

BBC HOME VIDEO

★★★★★

"IF YOU WANT the rainbow, you've got to have the rain," declares David Brent, the loathsome central character of the BBC's "fake-umentary" sitcom *The Office* at the conclusion of this DVD. "Dolly Parton said that. And people say she's just a big pair of tits!"

So far, 2004 has offered both rainbows and rain for Brent's real-life alter ego, Ricky Gervais, who in January won a Golden Globe for Best Comedy Actor while also discovering that the BBC "forgot" to nominate him for the equivalent award in Britain. Although that oversight was corrected, there is irony in Gervais being the victim of such incompetence, given that his character may well be the most hopeless TV boss ever.

Actually, Brent, the head honcho at a paper-selling office

located outside London, isn't just simply incompetent. He's a self-styled (if decidedly mis-styled) "chilled-out entertainer" who never tires of spewing pointless homilies ("Nothing ever changes by staying the same — quite literally!"), erotic fantasies ("I'd do the Corrs' drummer, the lead singer and that one who plays the violin") and his own awful poetry ("I froze your tears and made a dagger/And stabbed it in my cock forever").

In short, Brent encapsulates everything wrong about every boss you've ever had, and it's as gratifying as it is hilarious to watch his foibles repeatedly trip him up, even if this second series ends

with him so utterly humiliated that you may start to feel sorry for the bastard.

Alas, Gervais has said that with the exception of a couple of *Office* specials, he's giving the character of Brent an early retirement. Watching this DVD, which also boasts deleted scenes and a making-of featurette, you wish he would change his mind. Of course, if wishes were dollars, we'd all be millionaires. Or, to quote David Brent, "If my auntie had bollocks, she'd be my uncle."

**Brent encapsulates everything wrong about every boss.**



### 21 GRAMS

UNIVERSAL HOME VIDEO

★★★★

Despite its name, and the amount of narcotics vacuumed up by a tragedy-stricken Naomi Watts, *21 Grams* is most definitely *not* a drug movie (the title refers to the amount of weight the human body supposedly loses immediately after death). Alas, to say more about Alejandro González Iñárritu's tricky, nonlinear film would ruin the fun, if *fun* is an appropriate word for a film that features above-average amounts of death, disease and vomit. The performances of Watts, Benicio Del Toro and Sean Penn are all outstanding, however, as is that of Penn's wildly mutating facial hair.

### DAWN OF THE DEAD

ANCHOR BAY

★★★★

The zombies in George Romero's 1978 *Night of the Living Dead* sequel may look like the victims of an explosion in a blue-paint factory. And the much-discussed anti-consumerism subtext pretty much begins and ends with the fact that its quartet of desperate heroes seeks refuge from the undead in a mall. But this original *Dawn of the Dead* remains at least as shocking as its recent remake, thanks in no small part to the contribution of F/X gore-verlord Tom Savini. Includes commentary from Romero and Savini.

### FREAKS AND GEEKS: THE COMPLETE SERIES

SHOUT! FACTORY

★★★★

"You know who cut class? Jimi Hendrix. You know what happened to him? *He died!*" A canceled-after-one-series fusion of *The Wonder Years* and *Dazed and Confused*, this show, set in 1980,

*21 Grams*: "Hi, Norm!" "Hi, Cliff!"



may not live up to its comic-genius rep, but it still wrings a fair amount of laughs from its high-school-as-hell setting. And it's almost definitely the first sitcom to make a plot point out of John Bonham's death. Extras on this box set include 29 audio commentaries and a Q&A with producer-writer Judd Apatow.

### POLICE ACADEMY

WARNER HOME VIDEO

★★★★

How Steve Guttenberg became *the* face of big-screen comedy during the '80s may never be known, although the smart money is on some CIA-sponsored program of drug-enhanced mass hypnosis. But the first *Police Academy* does have plenty of funny moments — unlike, say, its six sequels, which are also being released on DVD. This twentieth-anniversary edition includes commentary from Guttenberg.

### THE RUNDOWN

UNIVERSAL HOME VIDEO

★★★★

Trailers for *The Rundown* made it look like a weary, stupid, formulaic buddy-action movie — when in fact it's a



*Scary Movie 3*: "Hello, Tommy? Get over here quick — and bring the video camera."



*Dawn of the Dead:* "Avon calling!"

terrific, stupid, formulaic buddy-action movie. Man-mountain The Rock stars as a thug-chef sent Brazil-ward to retrieve Seann William Scott's treasure hunter. Sounds crazy? Just wait until Christopher Walken's tooth fairy-obsessed baddie turns up! Also includes commentaries and an almost subliminal cameo from the Gropenator himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**SCARY MOVIE 3**

DIMENSION HOME VIDEO

☆☆☆

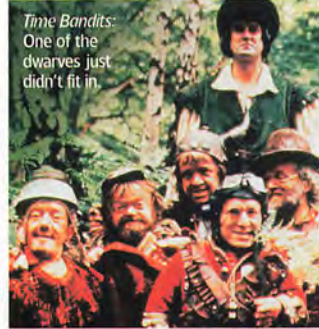
A return to the chucklesome form of the first installment, *Scary 3* also finds star Charlie Sheen and director David Zucker (*Airplane!*) seizing the franchise reins from the Wayans brothers. But why they spoofed *8 Mile* along with *The Ring* and *Signs* is anyone's guess, particularly given that those sequences are by far the most yuk-free.

**TIME BANDITS**

ANCHOR BAY

☆☆☆☆☆

*Time Bandits* tells the story of a young boy named Kevin, a gang of thieving, time-traveling dwarves, Napoleon, God and... Suffice it to say that the film's varied, vignette-ish form allows director Terry Gilliam to reveal fully his absurdist genius — and his love of stupid jokes



*Time Bandits:* One of the dwarves just didn't fit in.

("Dead? No excuse for laying off work!") Includes commentary from Gilliam.

**VANISHING POINT**

20TH CENTURY FOX HOME VIDEO

☆☆☆

A sort of existential *Fast and the Furious*, this 1971 cult movie tracks the attempt by delivery-service driver Barry Newman to race a Dodge Challenger from Denver to San Francisco in a tire-burning 15 hours. Newman's secret weapon? Amphetamines — and lots of 'em! A wildly pointless film, yet cool enough for Primal Scream to name an album after it. This DVD also boasts a director's commentary and trailer.

**VERONICA GUERIN**

BUENA VISTA HOME ENTERTAINMENT

☆☆☆

Irish journalist Veronica Guerin was shot to death in 1996 after writing one too many stories about Dublin's drug barons, and director Joel Schumacher should be admired for making a movie about her. Rather less admirable, however, is the movie itself, which features an overabundance of exposition, a surprisingly rotten central performance from Cate Blanchett and enough folk songs to make you think the film was set in ancient Middle Earth rather than modern-day Dublin.

**MUSIC DVDs**



**THE BEATLES THE FIRST U.S. VISIT**

APPLE/CAPITOL

☆☆☆☆☆

The mother of all rockumentaries, this film details the moment the Beatles touched down in America in January 1964, played to the biggest TV audience ever and, arguably, changed Western civilization forever. Empathetic camera work, extraordinary access and perfect timing make director Albert Maysles's appraisal ring true: "Any kind of different moment with the Beatles," he reflects, "is worth being in on." The disc also features previously unseen footage as well as Maysles's charming commentary. *ANDY PEMBERTON*



**THE UNDERTONES TEENAGE KICKS**

SANCTUARY

☆☆☆☆☆

This well-made film traces the unlikely rise and acrimonious breakup of the Northern Irish pop-punk band. Late-'70s footage and present-day interviews with the refreshingly innocent band-mates underscore the claim of their biggest hit: "Teenage kicks, so hard to beat." *PAULINE O'CONNOR*



**BOB MARLEY THE LEGEND LIVE**

SANCTUARY/TROJAN

☆☆☆☆

Marley already knew he had cancer when he hit the Santa Barbara County Bowl stage in November 1979. But he betrays no inkling of it in this brilliant performance. Bonus materials include Marley fielding questions while scratching his mustache with a big spliff. *CLARK COLLIS*



**WARREN ZEVON VH1 INSIDE OUT**

VH1

☆☆☆☆☆

"I'm not a hypochondriac, honest." What could have been an unwatchable look at the cancer-stricken Zevon's attempt to record one last album is made bearable, even hilarious, by his coal-black humor. The documentary's message, from Zevon himself: "Enjoy every sandwich." *CLARK COLLIS*



**STEVE EARLE JUST AN AMERICAN BOY**

ARTEMIS

☆☆☆

Scrappy and unfocused, this tour documentary is still compelling thanks to Earle's unvarnished ruminations. "Just remember," Earle barks after his patriotism is questioned for writing the controversial "John Walker's Blues." "It's never unpatriotic to question any fucking thing." *CLARK COLLIS*



**GUNS N' ROSES WELCOME TO THE VIDEOS**

GEFFEN

☆☆

Given GN'R's stripped-back musical appeal, it's amazing how overblown their clips now look. "Don't Cry" alone has doves, supermodel Stephanie Seymour and a plot as incomprehensible as Axl's fondness for kilts. Far better is the mostly live "Paradise City," a reminder of how great they were before it all went so horribly wrong. *CLARK COLLIS*

**BLENDER APPROVED**

The best DVDs of the last three months



**SHATTERED GLASS**

UION'S GATE HOME ENTERTAINMENT

A fascinating tale in which rogue journalist Hayden Christensen wins acclaim by fabricating stories. Just what you'd expect from Darth Vader.



**CONCERT FOR GEORGE**

WSM

The late Beatle's greatest songs performed by his greatest (or certainly most famous) friends, including Eric Clapton, Ringo Starr and... Tom Hanks?



The Osbournes: "Fuck!" "Shit!" "Bitch!" "Ass!" "Woof!"

# OZZ FEST

If you think the Osbournes are a family of weirdos, you really don't know the half of it. By Steve Lowe

## ORDINARY PEOPLE: OUR STORY

By Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne with Aimee, Kelly and Jack Osbourne

★★★★ MTV BOOKS, \$26

▶▶ ISN'T IT KIND OF late in the day for the tie-in tell-all book? Surely at this point in 2004, no sane person needs more Osbournes in his life.

Happily, though, *Ordinary People* doesn't feel too connected to the remorseless hype machine. Yes, it's funny enough, but the firsthand quotes also dig deeper than the TV-series caricatures. Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne's memories of their grueling childhoods and the

Black Sabbath years show that their insanity didn't spring from nowhere (Ozzy's brush with local pedophiles is particularly grim). Interjections from the kids (including the "mysterious," depressive oldest sister, Aimee) hint at how tough having a chronic addict for a dad can be.

Behind the familiar gonzo tales, a picture of real strangeness emerges. Why would Sharon endanger her life by working feverishly through chemotherapy? And the revelation that she once slept with Ozzy's guitarist Randy Rhoads might induce shrugs, but there's something compellingly odd about the image of all three snuggling up together on tour buses. "[Ozzy] was just as in love with Randy as I was," she writes.

Reminding us why this undisciplined crew turned heads in the first place, the sense of turbulence is constant. That Ozzy nearly died (in a December ATV accident) since this book's completion only underlines the central message here: Some people just weren't destined for the quiet life.



Ozzy: "Pass the ketchup!"

## A DYSFUNCTIONAL SUCCESS THE WRECKLESS ERIC MANUAL

By Eric Goulden

★★★★ THE DO-NOT PRESS/DJ FOUR EDITIONS, \$22

There's a noble tradition of dark music-biz memoirs that major in abject misery and failure, and the story of Stiff Records mini-legend Wreckless Eric Goulden certainly has plenty of both. Perversely skimming over his late-'70s success alongside Ian Dury and Elvis Costello, Goulden instead directs his gloriously wry prose

toward his misunderstood upbringing, his succession of disastrous cars and his ill-advised penchant for drinking all day long ("Lunchtime drinking was inexplicably linked in my mind with being warm, and with people being nice to each other. Like Christmas"). It's hard to imagine this making many of this year's Amazon wish lists, but what other music book offers the subject getting thrown out of the Boy Scouts for burglary?

STEVE LOWE

## HARD CORE TROUBADOUR THE LIFE & NEAR DEATH OF STEVE EARLE

By Lauren St. John

★★★★ FOURTH ESTATE, \$15

While watching the scene in *Pulp Fiction* in which an OD'ing Uma Thurman is administered a shot of adrenaline, Steve Earle once commented, "None of the junkies I knew were so well-equipped." He certainly knew a lot of them, as this well-researched biography, newly reissued in paperback, reminds us. While tracking the country star's seemingly endless struggle with drugs — Earle was given his first taste of heroin at age 13 by his

uncle — author Lauren St. John also mercifully highlights his positive qualities, not least the wicked sense of humor that found him dismissing Shania Twain as "the highest-paid lap-dancer in Nashville" and taping a picture of Reba McEntire to his toilet seat.

CLARK COLLIS



## POSTCARDS FROM THE BOYS

By Ringo Starr

★★★★ GENESIS BOOKS, \$500, 800-775-1111

Published in a limited edition of 2,500, this lushly packaged coffee-table book comes in its own bright red mailbox and features copies of postcards sent from the other Beatles to Ringo Starr from November 1966 on. Essentially "Having a lovely time, hope you're all well" jotted 53 times, the whole enterprise would be a bit questionable were it not for Starr's singular annotations. A postcard from John Lennon from the Scottish Highlands bears Ringo's caption: "Scotland the Brave. As a child, I never went there." But this is no naked grab for cash: Ringo's royalties go to a London charity called the Lotus Foundation.

ANDY PEMBERTON

## SHOWTIME AT THE APOLLO

By Ted Fox

★★★★ MILL ROAD ENTERPRISES, \$19

Of the 1,000 or so ex-vaudeville houses that showcased black entertainers for predominantly black audiences, only the



Apollo is still active. Ted Fox's book, originally published in 1983, is both a history of this New York landmark and a

window into the pre-Civil Rights world of black entertainment, where performing options were limited by institutional racism. It's a breezy account of the building, full of amusing anecdotes and vintage photos but lacking in deep analysis of the social and economic changes the Apollo witnessed. An updated chapter on the '80s and '90s feels tacked on; still, this is the only narrative history of a bygone era when Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Jackson and Luther Vandross all graced the same stage.

NELSON GEORGE



**THE STORY OF GOOD CHARLOTTE**

By Doug Small

☆☆☆ OMNIBUS PRESS, \$13

They have only two albums under their belt, but in these fast times, that qualifies punk-poppers Good Charlotte for their own "unofficial and unauthorized" biography. *The Story of Good Charlotte*, though, is neither as skimpy nor as disposable as it could have been — Doug Small does his best to fashion a decent read out of the thinnest of stories. But what's to tell? A tale of suburban misfits made good complete with the freak-show factor of having twin brothers in the band, this book is a case of too much too soon. It's visually arresting, but even the most dedicated Good Charlotte fan must concede that one picture says more than a thousand words.

DANIEL KRAUSS

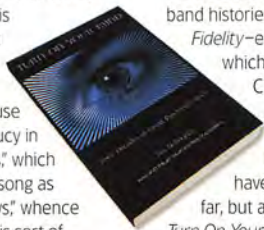


**TURN ON YOUR MIND**  
FOUR DECADES OF GREAT PSYCHEDELIC ROCK

By Jim DeRogatis

☆☆☆☆ HAL LEONARD CORP., \$19

*Turn On Your Mind* used to be called *Kaleidoscope Eyes*. As his introduction explains at considerable length, Jim DeRogatis changed the title because it was a reference to "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds," which isn't as good a Beatles song as "Tomorrow Never Knows," whence the new title comes. This sort of deranged nitpicking makes



**UNBELIEVABLE**  
THE LIFE, DEATH AND AFTERLIFE OF THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G.

By Cheo Hodari Coker

☆☆☆☆ THREE RIVERS PRESS, \$19

Unlike his friend-turned-foe Tupac Shakur, 300-pound rap behemoth Christopher Wallace never fit the cliché of doomed thug poet. His appetite for life — not to mention food, money and sex — was just too big. *Vibe* writer Cheo Hodari Coker, who conducted Wallace's last interview just days before his murder in March 1997, is a conscientious biographer, devoting as much space to his subject's musical abilities as to his personal drama. With a vividly drawn supporting cast, including Tupac, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Wallace's lover/protégée Lil' Kim and his formidable mother, Voletta, *Unbelievable* is as well-rounded and substantial as the man himself.

DORIAN LYNKEY



DeRogatis a perfect guide through five decades of psychedelia, using band histories and contentious *High Fidelity*-esque charts, one of which claims that Culture Club's "Karma Chameleon" is a psychedelic masterpiece. DeRogatis's mind may have expanded a little too far, but as the hippies would say, *Turn On Your Mind* is a real gas.

JAMES SLAUGHTER

**BLENDER APPROVED**

The best BOOKS of the last three months



**HOWLING AT THE MOON**

By Walter Yetnikoff

BROADWAY BOOKS

An un-put-downable repository of A-list gossip and narco-fueled weirdness from the former head of CBS Records.

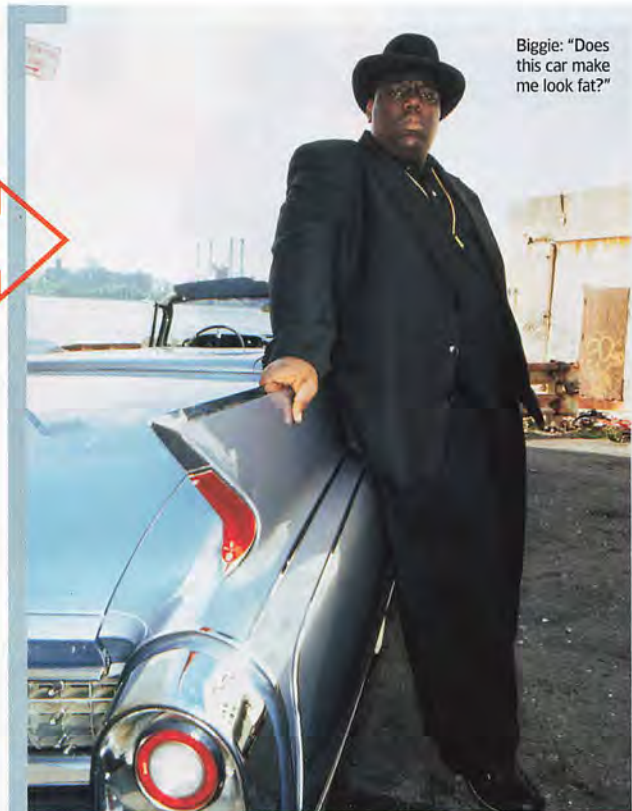


**UP-TIGHT: THE VELVET UNDERGROUND STORY**

By Victor Bockris and Gerard Malanga

COOPER SQUARE PRESS

The definitive book on the definitive New York band, newly updated.



Biggie: "Does this car make me look fat?"

**THE BEST PART OF A BIG BOOK!**

Sacramento, California, summer 1995: With tensions between Bad Boy and Death Row running high, Biggie runs into trouble

» MONTHS EARLIER BIG had given an interview to a free magazine called *Peace!* in which he was asked to rate different rappers on a scale of one to ten. . . . When asked about the Sacramento rap mogul E-40, Big said, "No rating! Zero! I don't fuck with duke at all!"

After rocking the crowd in Sacramento, Big and his six-man crew were returning to the hotel when they noticed they were being followed by several cars. When they reached the hotel, they realized that the cars were tricked-out low-riders. They'd never seen such vehicles outside of a Snoop video.

Twenty or thirty riders closed in around the seven out-of-towners. Only one of them spoke. "What's up, Big?" he said. "You in Sacramento

now." Then he handed Wallace a cell phone. E-40 was on the line wanting to discuss Big's magazine interview. "You know what's the craziest part?" [DJ] Enuff recalled, "Big didn't even look fazed. They're all flashing their guns and shit and Big is talking slick to E-40 on the phone. . . ."

"My people is here," E-40 told him.

"Yeah, I see them," said Big. He went on to explain that his comments in the interview referred to E-40's music only — after all, they'd never met, and for all Big knew, E-40 might be a wonderful fellow. And so a potentially nasty situation was avoided.

"As soon as that's done," Enuff said, "the same motherfucker who stepped to us was like, 'Can I have your autograph?' . . . Hip-hop is so much like high school. Everybody wants to test."

**"Hip-hop is like high school. Everybody wants to test."**

Excerpted from *Unbelievable: The Life, Death and Afterlife of the Notorious B.I.G.*, © 2004 by Cheo Hodari Coker. Reprinted by permission from Three Rivers Press.



James Bond: Licensed to run the hell away.

# DASHING!

Guns, gadgets and girls: Looks like a game for the world's best-known secret agent. By Jonah Weiner and Gabe Soria

## 007: EVERYTHING OR NOTHING

EA — PS2, XBOX, GAMECUBE

★★★★

GRACED BY Heidi Klum, Mya and Shannon Elizabeth, the latest in the wildly popular 007 series boasts more appearances by famous beauties than Colin Farrell's mattress. But this is James Bond — the man was forcing martinis down super-models' throats when Farrell was still peeping up his nanny's apron. Would you expect anything less?

Unlike earlier 007 games, this one uses third-person perspective, creating a cinematic feel that matches the Hollywood wattage of the cast (Pierce Brosnan and Willem Dafoe are also onboard).

Most levels are darkly lit, making the explosions all the more stunning — whether they're columns of fire spouting from your arsenal of matchbook-size bombs or columns of blood spouting from any chump foolish enough to step in front of your assault rifle.

Of course there are many gadgets, including a motorbike with a built-in flamethrower (sadly, no 22-inch chrome rims), which features prominently in one high-speed chase set in New Orleans. Riding it, you can slide sideways underneath a stalled oil truck, switch on the flamethrower and send pursuing enemies sky-high. Another neat toy is a little remote-control robot that does your bidding — if only you could train it to fetch Doritos, you'd never have to leave your couch!



Luckily, Sean Connery always wears a "crotch mirror." Thanks, Q!

## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Neighbors up to something sinister? Spy on them, Bond-style\*

### BIONIC EAR

Marty and Elaine across the street think their conversations about you go unheard, but whip out your BEE-100 bionic ear and pick up every dirty detail they drop. Hear that? They called you paranoid! [spooktech.com](http://spooktech.com)

### STUNNING RING

So the co-op board wants to hound you out of your apartment, huh? Well, give 'em a taste of the Stunning Ring, a piece of jewelry that spits a burst of pepper spray up to two feet. Painful, but not deadly. Yay! [pebbleco.com](http://pebbleco.com)

### WRISTWATCH DIGITAL CAMERA

Invited next door for a cookout? Slip this baby on and take up to 26 photos of the recipe for Bob's secret BBQ sauce. The only disadvantage? You'll look like a dork who's wearing a wristwatch digital camera. [spygear.com](http://spygear.com)

\*Moral note: Spying on people is wrong.



## PITFALL: THE LOST EXPEDITION

ACTIVISION — PS2, XBOX, GAMECUBE

Pitfall Harry began life as an ersatz Indiana Jones in 1982, the days of video-game prehistory. Two decades later, he's still riding Indy's coattails. Stranded in a jungle, Harry fights off masked natives and fires off irritating wisecracks. Pitfall's run-jump-kick gameplay is standard fare, but it might be the only game currently available where sneaking past dozing monkeys is an indispensable skill. ★★★



## SONIC HEROES

SEGA — PS2, XBOX, GAMECUBE

Stoned gamers have known it for years: Nothing's better with a bong hit than a large pepperoni pizza and Sega's loopy psychedelic Sonic the Hedgehog. Giddy in its screwball absurdity, Sonic Heroes charges the player to lead one of four teams of walking, talking animals in a quest to defeat Dr. Eggman (goo-goo-ga-joo!), a megalomaniac with a world-ruling jones. Neck-snappingly fast action complements the game's lush, candy-colored locations. ★★★



## TOM CLANCY'S SPLINTER CELL: PANDORA TOMORROW

UBISOFT — PS2, XBOX, GAMECUBE

Imagine wanting to kill someone so much that you climbed underneath a speeding train, snuck through a bathroom hatch, cut the lights, socked a nosy conductor, then ace your mark with a silenced 9 mm. In this elaborately strategic surveillance-and-assassination game, that's your life. So addictive, you might find yourself doing recon on your next trip to the laundromat. ★★★



## WINNING ELEVEN 7

KONAMI — PS2

Blender loves "footie," but a soccer fan can't show his face on America's streets without getting laughed at. Thankfully, our shameful secret can be kept safely indoors with Winning Eleven, virtual soccer that's so close to reality, we cupped our groin in sympathy when our team protected their digital block-and-tackles against a free kick. Players have 100 international teams to choose from, but there aren't any simulated fan riots. Nuts! ★★★

## BLENDER APPROVED

The best GAMES of the last three months



### NFL STREET

EA SPORTS BIG — PS2, XBOX

Pro pigskin goes back to the 'hood and loses the rules in this addictive, no-holds-barred bonanza.



### MANHUNT

ROCKSTAR — PS2, XBOX, PC

Pop out from shadows and stick sickles into villains' eyeballs in this sadistic, creepy thriller.

# WIN THIS FLAT-SCREEN TV!

*SWEEEEET!* The Audiovox FP1520 is a flat-panel LCD TV that features a built-in tuner, stereo speakers and a remote control. You can even mount it on the wall! Just solve this puzzle, cut out your completed version and send it to the address below. (Read the official rules at [blender.com](http://blender.com).) Send us your answer and contact information by May 18, 2004. We'll pick a winner at random and post the winner's name at [blender.com/crossword](http://blender.com/crossword). *Whoo-ha!*



Send your completed puzzle to *Blender* Puzzle Contest, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York, New York 10018.

## PENCIL ME IN!

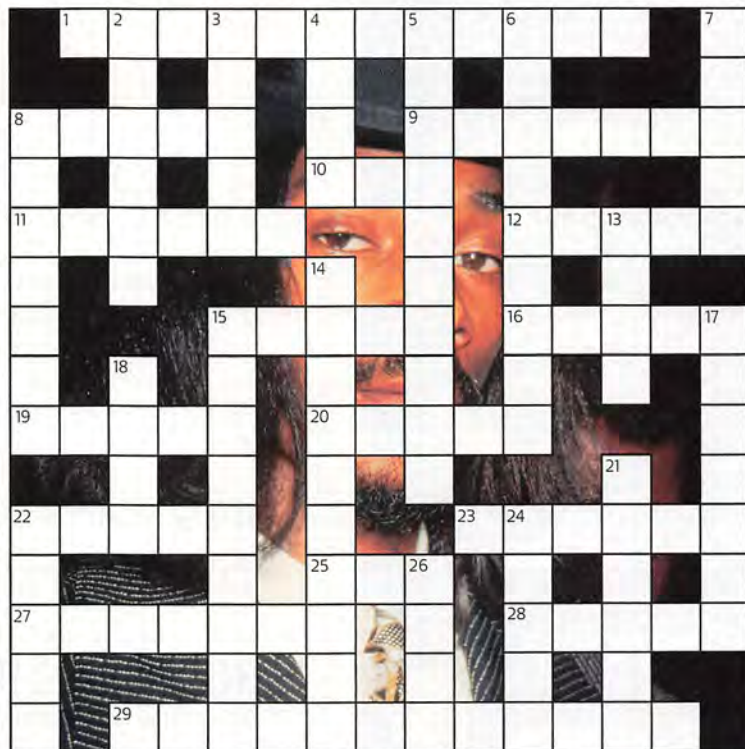
Hey, it's *Blender's* crossword! Starring 8 Across! BY BRENDAN QUIGLEY

### ACROSS

- 1 London rapper who wants you to fix up, look sharp (two words)
- 2 Father of the Mothers of Invention
- 3 Fillmore \_\_\_\_ (classic New York venue)
- 4 *Doggy Fizzle Televizzle* host
- 5 This piano diva claims you don't know her name (two words)
- 6 He was runner-up to Ruben Studdard (two words)
- 7 Song in which John Lennon claims, "I'm a dreamer"
- 8 "Waterfalls" trio
- 9 Run-DMC's favorite sneakers
- 10 This rapper wants to read your mind
- 11 Nine Inch Nails' Reznor
- 12 "You \_\_\_\_ Me All Night Long" (AC/DC)
- 13 "\_\_\_\_ No Mountain High Enough" (Marvin Gaye)
- 14 Redneck rapper Bubba
- 15 Emo-metallers with the 2004 hit "Out of Control"
- 16 "\_\_\_\_ Me All Night Long" (AC/DC)
- 17 Beck's 2002 album with the hit "Paper Tiger" (two words)
- 18 Brothers-in-rock \_\_\_\_ of Leon
- 19 Ms. Aguilera's alter ego
- 20 Canadian crooner Adams
- 21 Cream's \_\_\_\_ *Cream* (1966 psychedelic classic)
- 22 Nickelback's 2004 Top 10 hit about the future?
- 23 Emo's \_\_\_\_ & Cambria
- 24 Number in a live crew?
- 25 Where crunk came from
- 26 It was on Mick Jagger's side (yes, it was) in 1964
- 27 You can watch *Top of the Pops* on it
- 28 According to Duran Duran, he's a lonely child
- 29 Big Boi's half of Outkast's 2003 double LP
- 30 Scottish post-punks \_\_\_\_ Ferdinand
- 31 Rap CDs have intros in the front and these in the back
- 32 Shania Twain's invitation: *Come on \_\_\_\_*

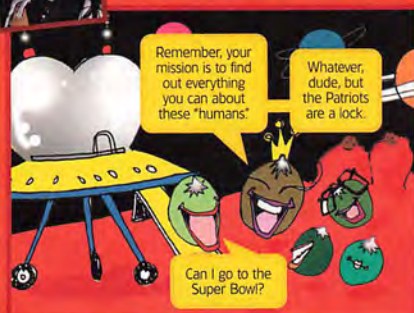
### DOWN

- 1 Alanis Morissette hit from 1996 showering her talents with malapropisms

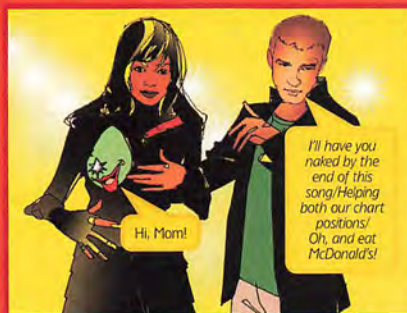


## POP HISTORY! FEBRUARY 2004: THE TRUTH ABOUT JANET JACKSON'S SUPER BOWL BREAST POP-OUT

WRITTEN BY CLARK COLLIS, ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN JAY



↑ The Super Bowl strip story begins on Thraaga, a planet populated by creatures shaped just like breasts.



↑ And that's the truth about Janet's Super Bowl pop-out.



↑ Or is it?



**FREE, Fast Shipping!**  
 Get it within 3 days!  
 FREE for most orders over \$199. Limited time offer.  
 Call for details.

# Get on it

Call for your **FREE** catalog!

Crutchfield is your car and home electronics shopping alternative. Sony, Kenwood, Pioneer, Alpine, more. All the great brands, all the, right information, from people who get it.



Call 1-888-806-6881  
 or visit [Crutchfieldcatalog.com](http://Crutchfieldcatalog.com)  
 and enter code "BLN".



**CRUTCHFIELD**  
 The Electronics Shopping Alternative



your  
**Sunterra Adventure**  
 starts here

Escape to a Sunterra resort and experience the luxury and quality service you deserve. Offering spacious studio, 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom fully-equipped villas at value prices... your Sunterra vacation experience awaits.

Rates starting at  
**\$59.00/night\***

Call for reservations or information  
**1.800.424.1943**  
 book online [sunterra.com](http://sunterra.com)  
 Ask for special promotion code DENPUB

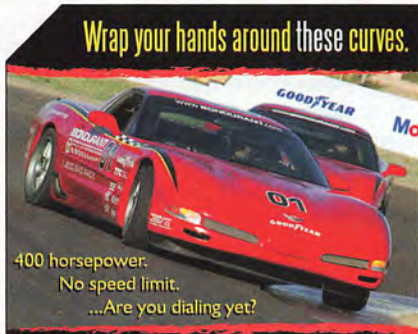
**Visit our fantastic destinations:**

- St. Maarten/Caribbean
- Orlando & Kissimmee, FL
- Avila Beach (Central Coast), CA
- Scottsdale, AZ Sedona, AZ
- Santa Fe, NM
- Gatlinburg, TN
- Branson, MO
- Williamsburg, VA



**Sunterra**  
[www.sunterra.com](http://www.sunterra.com)

\* Some restrictions apply. Rates may vary by resort.



Wrap your hands around these curves.  
 400 horsepower.  
 No speed limit.  
 ...Are you dialing yet?

**800.842.RACE**  
[WWW.BONDURANT.COM](http://WWW.BONDURANT.COM)



## ARE YOU A MAMA'S BOY?



Mama's Boy Bear with "MOM" tattoo


**Mother's Day is May 9th  
 Overnight Delivery Guaranteed!**

Be original this year, send her the **Creative Alternative to Flowers**—a Bear-Gram gift! Over 100 Bears for your mom or wife, each delivered with gourmet candy and a card with your personal message in our famous gift box.



**SHE'LL LOVE IT!**  
[VermontTeddyBear.com](http://VermontTeddyBear.com)  
**1-800-829-BEAR**

*I've got my eyes on you!*



Live 1 on 1  
 No 900 #.  
 No Credit Cards.  
 Just hot singles.

**1-781-222-4040**

**NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED!**  
 Regular US long distance may apply. 18+

Looking For More **BANG**  
 For Your Buck?  
 Then check out  
**OutrageousAuctions.com™**

Mention this ad and receive 5% off your first purchase on:  
**Engagement Rings**  
**Wedding Bands**  
**Diamond Earrings**  
**Eternity Bands**  
**Tennis Bracelets**  
**Watches!**  
**ScrewRings™**

212-717-7787  
 support@outrageousauctions.com  
 Only At Outrageous Auctions

**ebay Stores** Visit my eBay Store:  
 www.stores.ebay.com/outrageousauctions

The goods and/or services described above are those of an eBay Store seller, not eBay Inc. eBay and the eBay stores logo are trademarks of eBay Inc.

**Thrill Seekers**

Adventure...that's us! Explore exotic Caribbean isles. Windsurf, dive, snorkel, and kayak. 6 & 13 day cruises from \$700.

**1 800 327-2601**  
 www.windjammer.com



**Windjammer Barefoot Cruises**  
 P.O. Box 190120, Dept. 6192, Miami Beach FL 33119

**www.powermedica.com**

**Prescription Anti-Aging Products**

- Human Growth Hormone
- Hormone Replacement Therapy
- HCG

**Prescription Performance Products**

- Nandrolone
- Arimidex
- Anavar
- Winstrol



**PowerMEDICA**

**Feel the Power**

**Toll Free 866-340-6600**

**600 West Hillsboro Blvd • 1<sup>st</sup> Floor • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441**

→ She's the willowy 32-year-old bassist (Hole, Smashing Pumpkins) with a love of horses, hard liquor and swearing. But what exactly is her "firebush"? And, while we're asking...

BY ROB TANNENBAUM  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KENNETH CAPPELLO

## WHO DOES MELISSA AUF DER MAUR THINK SHE IS?

**In your self-portrait, amid the Canadian flag and the redbird, there's a drawing of you saying, "I love horses."**

Music and horses are somehow related to me. I'm a very romantic person, and when I see rock music in my head, I see landscapes — big rolling hills and horses traversing them. There's a traditional kind of gallop in metal songs, like "Barra-cuda" or Led Zeppelin. It musters up visions of horses. The part of me that explores the rock rhythm is some sort of Viking who lives on horses.

**So to you, horses aren't just for teenage girls.**

The horse is a very masculine thing; it's a powerful beast. Like the horses in *The Lord of the Rings* — I've seen those horses before in my dreams as powerful, dangerous images, with blood dripping from the hooves. I love those images.

**So are you in the Viggo Mortensen fan club?**

He's too human. Viggo isn't who I'm impressed with; it's the character. I'd go on a date with Aragorn, for sure.

**What was your nickname in school?**

My family still calls me Mouse. My friends at school called me Pumpkin Head — thank God that name was far away from me when I joined Smashing Pumpkins. And — oh! This is a good one for *Blender* — my band members call me Firebush [*laughs*]. Only the guys, though, not the girls.

**What's your favorite curse word?**

The only one I really use is the good old standard *f-u-c-k*. I usually put a lot of *fucks* next to each other. "Don't fucking fuck with me." Or just "Fucking fuck!" I don't like to be angry, though — you should work through it.

**What song brings you to tears?**

Any Elliott Smith song off his album *Roman Candle*. His music has always seemed very sad and fragile to me, and compacted with his death, I could muster up some tears, for sure.

**Pinkie rings on men: yes or no?**

No. Weird. Too much attention to anything in a man's physical presentation freaks me out. Vanity in men is a turnoff. Smelling bad doesn't bug me [*laughs*].

**What are you like when you're drunk?**

I'm a good drunk. I laugh more, I swear more — oops! — and I become very animated with my arms. I grew up in a drinking community, the music community in Canada, and everybody drank. By 14, I was going to the Thunderdome, drinking bad draft beer. But I stick to gin, vodka, the simple... actually, no, that's not true. I like all alcohol.

**What's the least and most money you've made in a year as an adult?**

As a bass player, we get the shorter end of the deal, though to some people, it's very much — \$300,000 is the most I've made in the past 10 years of making music, and I lived off it for many years. Two years ago, I made \$3,000, but I recorded the album I'm releasing now, so imagine the debt I found myself in.

**How do you feel about pornography on the tour bus?**

I've been in weird bands — it's not the traditional scene of groupies and pornography and sports. I've been in pretty feminine bands, even the ones that had men in them.

**Instead of porn and sports, what are the hobbies?**

Tea and cakes [*laughs*]. No, it's more like, talk, talk, talk and watch movies. And go to hipster fashion parties.

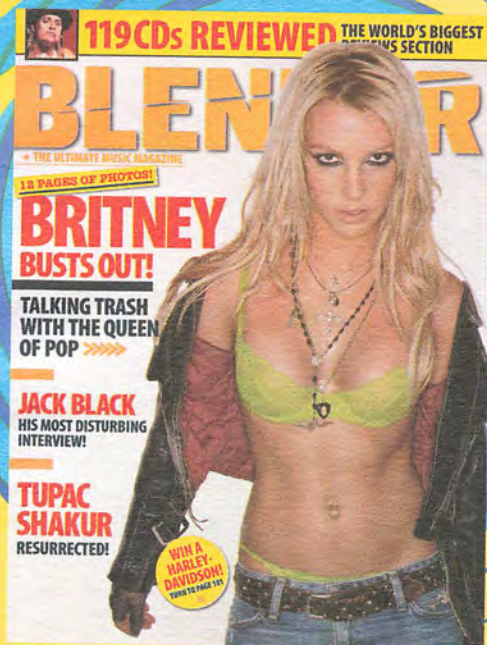
**Are you a good girl or a bad girl?**

A good girl, for sure. I follow my heart, I'm honest and I try to do the right thing.

**And what about all the drinking, the swearing, the heavy metal...?**

That's just a little experiment. [*BLENDER*]





LOVE MUSIC, LOVE BLENDER



**BLENDER** THE ULTIMATE MUSIC MAGAZINE

# Save 70%

**YES!** Send me 1 year of BLENDER for only \$11.97

Name (Please print)

Address Apt. No.

City State Zip

**PAYMENT ENCLOSED**

Canadian orders, add \$10 in U.S. Funds (inc. GST).

Foreign orders, add \$20 in U.S. funds.

**BILL ME LATER**

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue. Savings based on annual cover price of \$39.90.

Blender is published 10 times per year.

**BLENDER** THE ULTIMATE MUSIC MAGAZINE

# Save 70%

**YES!** Send me 1 year of BLENDER for only \$11.97

Name (Please print)

Address Apt. No.

City State Zip

**PAYMENT ENCLOSED**

Canadian orders, add \$10 in U.S. Funds (inc. GST).

Foreign orders, add \$20 in U.S. funds.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue. Savings based on annual cover price of \$39.90.

Blender is published 10 times per year.



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 288 FLAGLER BEACH FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**BLENDER**

PO BOX 421252  
PALM COAST FL 32142-7600



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 288 FLAGLER BEACH FL

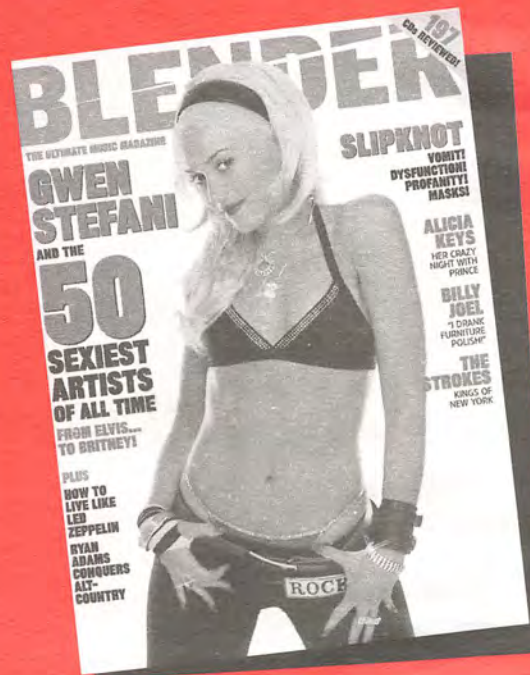
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**BLENDER**

PO BOX 421252  
PALM COAST FL 32142-7600



**RUSH  
MY NEW  
SUBSCRIPTION!**



**Subscribe  
Today!**

**BLENDER**



NOW  
LEGAL!

ACCESS 5  
DECADES OF  
BILLBOARD  
CHARTS

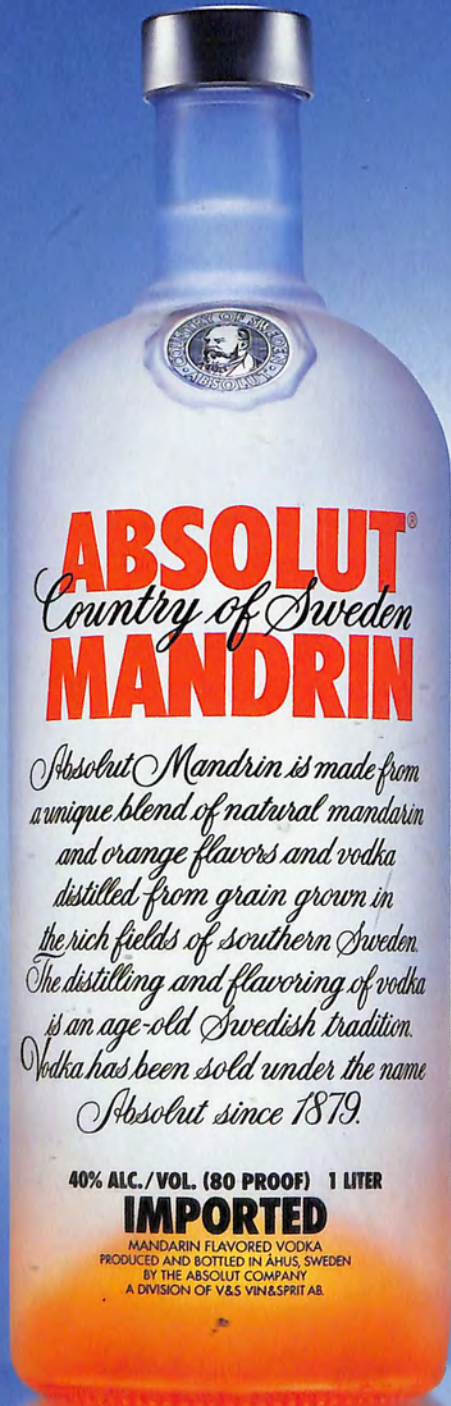
SEEKING INDEPENDENT MUSIC VIGILANTES.



NAPSTER  
EXCLUSIVE  
LIVE CONTENT

©2003-2004 Napster, LLC. Napster and the Napster logo are trademarks of Napster, LLC that may be registered in the U.S. and/or other countries.

Napster is a safe, reliable and totally legal way to discover, download and collect music. Listen to over 500,000 tracks for less than 10 bucks per month. Quickly find new tracks that match your independent taste. Then share them with your friends. GO TO NAPSTER.COM.



**ABSOLUT**  
*Country of Sweden*  
**MANDRIN**

*Absolut Mandrin is made from a unique blend of natural mandarin and orange flavors and vodka distilled from grain grown in the rich fields of southern Sweden. The distilling and flavoring of vodka is an age-old Swedish tradition. Vodka has been sold under the name Absolut since 1879.*

**40% ALC. / VOL. (80 PROOF) 1 LITER**

**IMPORTED**

MANDARIN FLAVORED VODKA  
PRODUCED AND BOTTLED IN ÅHUS, SWEDEN  
BY THE ABSOLUT COMPANY  
A DIVISION OF V&S VIN & SPRIT AB.



**ABSOLUT REUNION.**

ABSOLUT MANDRIN™ MANDARIN-FLAVORED VODKA. PRODUCT OF SWEDEN. 40% ALC/VOL (80 PROOF). ABSOLUT COUNTRY OF SWEDEN VODKA & LOGO, ABSOLUT, ABSOLUT BOTTLE DESIGN, ABSOLUT MANDRIN, ABSOLUT CALLIGRAPHY AND ABSOLUT.COM ARE TRADEMARKS OWNED BY V&S VIN & SPRIT AB. ©2001 V&S VIN & SPRIT AB. IMPORTED BY ABSOLUT SPIRITS CO., NEW YORK, NY. PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE BRONSTEIN.

ENJOY OUR QUALITY RESPONSIBLY. [absolut.com](http://absolut.com)